

# By Laws of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

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## Article I AIMS AND PURPOSE

### Section 1 Basic Aims

1. To further individual freedom.
2. To oppose the initiation of force against individuals.
3. To support each individual's option to defend his freedom in the manner of his choosing.
4. To increase the choices available to the individual both for the exercise and the defense of his own freedom.
5. To improve our understanding of our environment so we may better direct our efforts for freedom with responsibility and justice in an orderly society.
6. To seek out, study and promote methods by which individuals may better deal with each other freely on the basis of exchanging values.

### Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of the Party is to engage in political, educational and social activities in order to preserve, protect, promote and defend individual freedom and conduct the following activities consistent with the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party, and the Basic Aims of Section 1:

1. Disseminating Libertarian political philosophy by entering into political information activities.
2. Nominating and supporting candidates for political office who understand and will work for individual freedom and against all forms of involuntary collectivism.
3. Cooperating with other organizations to achieve the goals set forth in the Principles and Basic Aims.
4. Supporting national Libertarian Party candidates.
5. To take any peaceful action available to reduce coercive acts, particularly by government, and thereby to increase the freedom of choice available to the individual.
6. To improve opportunities for self-determination and to increase the options available to the individual for his own self defense. It is the intent herein that the Party shall be operated with minimum recourse to democratic voting, representation by area or class, or any other system which would require an individual to act against his will or to submit unwillingly to someone else's will.

## Article II MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 Membership Categories

There shall be two classes of membership, Member and Associate Member. An individual may become a Member or an Associate Member of the Party by fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Making application

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2. Agreement with the Aims and Purpose of Article I
3. Signing the following statement "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force to achieve political, social, or economic goals." To become a Member, an individual must also be a resident of the State of Connecticut and have paid the appropriate dues.

### **Section 2 Dues**

Each Member shall be subject to annual dues as established by a two-thirds vote of the State Central Committee. There shall be no dues for Associate Members, but they may be charged for services.

### **Section 3 Categories of Membership**

Each Member shall be eligible to serve either as a State Central Committee Member or as a Judicial Committee Member. Categories of Members for dues purposes shall be established by a two-thirds vote of the State Central Committee. Each Associate Member shall be eligible to be appointed to committees or to join and represent ad hoc committees or organizations.

### **Section 4 Voting Rights**

All Members are eligible to vote in person or by proxy where allowed under Article V, Meetings. Associate Members do not have voting rights at meetings, but do have voting rights on committees to which they have been appointed per Section 3.

### **Section 5 Resignation and Suspension**

1. Any Member or Associate Member may resign at any time providing he has delivered any Party property in his possession to an officer of the Party.
2. The State Central Committee may suspend a Member for failure to maintain all of the qualifications of membership by a vote of two-thirds of the full committee.
3. Notification of suspension shall be delivered to the suspended member who shall then have fifteen days to appeal to the Secretary. If no appeal is filed the membership shall be terminated.
4. Appeal of suspension shall be delivered by the Secretary to the Judicial Committee who shall hold a hearing concerning the suspension. Following the hearing, the Judicial Committee shall rule to either terminate or to continue the member in good standing, but, until the ruling to terminate is delivered to the Secretary, the member shall continue as a member of the Party.

### **Section 6 Roster**

A roster of members and their classes and categories shall be maintained by the Secretary. The official roster shall be published containing only those member's names who have given their written consent to be included.

### **Section 7 Derivative Membership**

Membership in the party shall not serve to automatically enroll anyone in any other group including the national Libertarian Party without his prior and continuing consent as well as the consent of that group.

## **Article III ORGANIZATION**

Section 1 State Central Committee shall consist of from 10 to 40 Members with the exact number and membership determined at each annual party convention. It shall be vested with the management of the affairs of the Party. It shall:

1. Establish rules for its own operation.

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2. Meet at least quarterly (every 3 months).
3. Select officers annually and be empowered to terminate any officer for cause.
4. Administer the affairs of the Party.
5. Establish committees or recognize an existing group as a committee for particular purposes.
6. Recognize and cooperate with Libertarian ad hoc organizations.
7. Accept resignations, select successors and fill any vacancies in offices or committees.
8. Select delegates to any convention or meeting unless a Party Convention or Special Party Meeting makes such selection.

### **Section 2 Officers**

The Officers of the Party shall be a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, except that the State Central Committee may divide the responsibilities of any office and adjust the titles accordingly. The term of office shall run from the conclusion of one convention until the conclusion of the next, unless terminated, provided a successor has been selected.

### **Section 3 Judicial Committee**

The Judicial Committee shall consist of 6 Members with two chosen at each annual convention for a three year term. Members shall not also be members of the State Central Committee or its committees but may serve on a Platform Committee or a By Laws Committee. It shall establish rules for its own operation. It shall hold hearings and render decisions on any official action of the Party, officers or a committee, whenever requested by three or more Members. The Judicial Committee formed under these By Laws shall also act as the official Judicial Committee of local Town Committees unless a Town Committee has specific provisions otherwise in its By Laws. If such action is found to be in conflict with any part of Article 1 of the By Laws, such action shall be declared null and void.

### **Section 4 Committees**

Committees may be established for particular functions by either the State Central Committee or the Party at an Annual Convention or Special Meeting. Such committees shall be answerable to the body which established it. All committees, except those established by the By Laws, shall be automatically dissolved upon adjournment of the Annual Convention unless specifically renewed.

### **Section 5 Ad Hoc Organizations**

Libertarian ad hoc organizations are recognized as a valuable function and may be organized on a regional basis or for any other purpose consistent with these By Laws providing there is full and free exchange of such ideas, discussions and projects with the State Central Committee. To receive mailings each organization shall appoint a person for liaison and register with the Secretary.

### **Section 6 Spokesmen**

Spokesmen for the Party shall be designated by the State Central Committee with such limitations as deemed appropriate. Such designation shall in no way serve to limit any individual's or group's freedom of expression providing they properly identify themselves and do not imply Party endorsement.

### **Section 7 Representation**

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Representation by any member on behalf of any other member shall be valid only if there is a written, signed agreement between them. Any member may represent the principles, ideas or concepts of Libertarianism from his own point of view, but shall not purport to represent any other person or group without the required consent of each and every person so represented. The selection of a member to perform an official function for the Party shall not serve to relieve him in any way from the requirements of this section.

### **Section 8 Campaigns**

Political campaigns may be operated under section 4 or 5 above, at the discretion of the candidates and the State Central Committee. It is intended that each candidate will organize, finance and operate his own campaign.

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### **Section 9 Town Committees**

The State Central Committee shall have the authority to approve the By Laws of a single Town Committee in each town in the state. Once established, that Town Committee shall have the sole authority to nominate candidates for any municipal office or state legislative office when the jurisdiction of such district lies entirely within the geographic borders of the town that town committee serves.

Local affiliates may also select officers to carry out functions according to their own needs and discretion, including, but by no means limited to, the purposes outlined in Sections 1 and 2 of Article I established by these bylaws. Only those registered to vote as Libertarians in the town in question shall be members of that Libertarian Town Committee. Officers in a Town Committee must be dues paying members in the Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

If a local affiliate's bylaws don't provide for a parliamentary procedure, Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the default procedure, and these committees may reserve the right to suspend these rules upon a 2/3 vote in any proceeding.

## **Article IV SELECTIONS**

### **Section 1 State Central Committee**

The State Central Committee shall be selected at the Annual Convention. The State Central Committee members must be current members of the Libertarian Party for a minimum of one year. The Secretary shall submit a listing of all Members with the number of meetings each attended since the last annual convention. Attendance shall include the Convention, Special Party Meetings, State Central Committee meetings and such other committee meetings or functions as the State Central Committee has designated in advance. The Convention shall vote to establish the numerical size of the Committee. Those Members who have the highest attendance record and express a willingness to serve shall be declared selected as members of the Committee until the conclusion of the next annual convention. Any member of the State Central Committee who is absent for 3 consecutive meetings is automatically removed as a member of the State Central Committee.

### **Section 2 Officers**

Officers shall be selected by the State Central Committee from amongst its membership, immediately following each convention. If there is more than one nominee for each office, the selection shall be made on a graded system in which each Committeeman rates each nominee for his ability in that office on a scale of 0 to 10. The nominee receiving the highest total tally shall

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be declared selected, subject to any further requirements established by the Committee in its Rules.

### **Section 3 Judicial Committee**

The Judicial Committee members shall be selected at the Annual Convention to fill any vacancies.

### **Section 4 Committees**

Committees shall have members selected by the body which established the committee in accordance with that body's rules.

### **Section 5 Ad Hoc Organizations**

Ad hoc organizations shall select their members according to such rules as they may establish.

### **Section 6 Eligibility Requirements**

No one shall serve as a member of the State Central Committee, an officer of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, or an officer of a local affiliate unless he or she is registered to vote as a Libertarian in the State of Connecticut.

## **Article V MEETINGS**

### **Section 1 Conventions**

Annual Conventions shall be called by the State Central Committee. Special Party Meetings may be called by the Chairman, the State Central Committee or by 10% of the Members. Such Special Party Meetings may undertake any function authorized for conventions under the provisions of these By Laws.

### **Section 2 State Central Committee**

State Central Committee meetings shall be held on a regular basis with all Members advised of the time, place and agenda.

### **Section 3 Notice**

Notice of all meetings shall be mailed or delivered in writing to each Member at least two weeks prior to the meeting except that notice of Conventions and Special Party Meetings shall be given at least thirty days in advance. Notification may be sent by mail, delivered in writing, or sent via email, to an address provided by the Member. No commitments shall be made on any matter not specifically included in the notice. The SCC will determine the method of notification.

### **Section 4 Proxies**

Proxies will be accepted as a means of free market representation at any Party Meeting or convention and shall have the same effect as the individual's presence unless modified by the proxy agreement. Each proxy shall be signed and dated and available at the meeting for which it is being used. Proxies are to be written so that any member may contract with another member who will be his free market representative and will act for him under any mutually agreeable conditions. If more than one proxy is presented for action on behalf of the same member and for the same issue, the one bearing the most recent date shall be valid. If the member is present he may act on his own behalf and the proxy will not then be in effect. The use of a proxy shall be

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noted on the attendance record, including the member's name and the person to whom the proxy was given.

### **Section 5 Attendance Records**

The Secretary shall maintain a record of attendance of all meetings.

### **Section 6 Nominations**

During the nominating process self nominations shall take precedence and seconding is not required.

### **Section 7 Observers**

Observers (non-members) may attend any Party Meeting or convention, but they may participate in discussions only if requested of the chair in advance and with the permission of the members present. Observers may be excluded from any committee meetings if one third of its members so votes.

### **Section 8 Quorums**

A quorum for the State Central Committee shall be one half of its membership, not counting vacancies. A quorum for a Party Convention shall be one half the registered members present as a delegate or by proxy. A registered member is any Member who has preregistered for the meeting with the Secretary or who is present during any portion of the meeting. A quorum for business at any convention meeting shall be two-thirds of the delegates and proxies. A quorum for the Judicial Committee shall be two-thirds of its membership.

## **Article VI FINANCES**

### **Section 1 Dues**

Annual dues will be applied to the operation of general Party administration expenses at the discretion of the State Central Committee.

### **Section 2 Activities**

Each Committee, Ad hoc organization or Campaign shall be responsible for financing its own operation.

### **Section 3 Notices**

Notice of Special Party meetings shall be financed by the treasury only if requested by the Chairman, the State Central Committee or by 20% of the membership. If such meeting is requested by less than 20% of the Members, they shall finance the mailing themselves.

### **Section 4 Authorization**

Appropriations and other financial transactions shall be in accordance with the rules established by the State Central Committee.

## **Article VII CONVENTION RULES**

### **Section 1 Offices**

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The incumbent Party Chairman and Secretary shall be chairman and secretary respectively of the Convention.

### **Section 2 Procedure**

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the By Laws.

### **Section 3 Agenda**

The agenda shall be established by the State Central Committee and included in the notification of the convention. It shall consist of at least the following:

1. Minutes of Previous Convention
  2. Treasurer's Report
  3. Secretary to present the listing of members willing to serve on the State Central Committee with their attendance records of the previous year.
  4. Determination of the size of the State Central Committee (10 to 40 Members) and announcement of Members thus selected.
  5. Selection of Judicial Committee members (2 for a 3 year term plus any vacancies to be filled).
- A majority vote of the delegates can change the order of the agenda.

### **Section 4 Delegates**

Each Member who has been a Member for at least 30 days prior to the start of the Convention may register personally as a delegate or provide a proxy in accordance with Article V Section 4 for use by a registered delegate.

### **Section 5 Registration**

Each delegate shall register with the Secretary and pay such fee as the State Central Committee shall establish prior to participating in any business of the Convention.

### **Section 6 Voting**

The establishing of the size of the State Central Committee; the selection of Judicial Committee members; the endorsement of candidates for office, and the establishment of committees and their membership; all shall require a majority vote.

### **Section 7 Amendments**

The By Laws may be amended one section at a time in accordance with the requirements of

## **Article XI Amendments**

### **Section 8 Platform**

The platform shall be considered one plank at a time. A new plank, or the substitution of a new plank for an old plank, shall require a two-thirds affirmative vote. Deletion of a plank shall require a majority vote.

### **Section 9 Challenges**

Any action of the Convention may be challenged in writing during the Convention as being in conflict with the By Laws. Such challenge shall be signed by the challenging delegates and delivered to the Secretary who will refer it to the Judicial Committee for a decision. If the

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challenge is upheld the challenged action shall be null and void, but can be reinstated by a three-fourths vote of the Convention.

### **Section 10 Rescinding Actions**

Any actions of the State Central Committee may be rescinded or modified by a two-thirds vote upon a motion from the floor.

### **Article VIII STATE LAW**

At such time as the Party qualifies to be placed on the Connecticut ballot, the By Laws shall be amended to conform to the provisions of legal Election Laws. The State Central Committee shall be empowered to take such actions as it deems necessary to bring the By Laws into conformance with the Election Laws.

### **Article IX SECESSION**

The Party may withdraw affiliation with the National Libertarian Party by resolution and by amending Article I, Section 2 of the By Laws, in accordance with Article XI Amendments

### **Article X DISSOLUTION**

The Party may dissolve itself upon unanimous recommendation of the State Central Committee and a three-quarter vote to dissolve at a Convention or Special Party Meeting. In the event of the approval of a dissolution, the State Central Committee shall wind up the affairs of the party and shall distribute all of the assets to other organizations which uphold the principles upon which this Party is formed.

### **Article XI AMENDMENTS**

The By Laws may be amended at a convention by a vote of two-thirds of the delegates in session upon recommendation by the State Central Committee or a special committee created for the purpose at a previous convention or special meeting, except that it shall take unanimous consent to change Article I, Section 1 Basic Aims and no amendment can be made to this provision for unanimous consent. In the event that the national Libertarian Party should change their "Principles", such change must be ratified by the State Central Committee or the membership to be effective.