

Post-Convention Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to the Board of the Libertarian Party of Colorado 2017 State Convention

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**Report Prepared by Chair Longstreth** 

# **FORWARD**

The Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) report was presented, in part, to the delegates at the 2017 Libertarian Party of Colorado's State Convention on March 25, 2017. While not all recommendations were heard due to time constraints, the most important recommendations were heard and decided including every proposed change to the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado. I urge the next C&B Committee to consider all proposals not heard at the 2017 Convention and consider presenting them at the 2018 Convention.

A complete copy of the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado is included in this report at Appendix A.

A complete copy of the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado is included in this report at Appendix B. This copy includes all changes adopted at the 2017 Convention.

The Committee and all of its members have been proud to serve the Libertarian Party of Colorado this year and thank the 2017 Convention delegates for their consideration on all proposals presented. The Chair wishes to express gratitude to all members of the C&B Committee this year for their hard work and dedication.

It was truly an honor to act as the Chair and serve the Party in this capacity.

In Liberty,

Richard Longstreth 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	Appendix A: Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado
II.	Appendix B: Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado8
III.	Appendix C: Proposals Not Heard by the 2017 Convention Delegates

# **APPENDIX A: Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

[Adopted in Convention March 25th, 2017]

## **Article I – NAME**

<u>Section 1:</u> The name of the political party shall be the Libertarian Party of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as "the Party."

#### **Article II – PURPOSES**

<u>Section 1:</u> The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles, such as those in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, throughout the state of Colorado by:

- (a) providing leadership and direction for the Libertarian movement in Colorado;
- (b) communicating the message and positions of the Party;
- (c) entering into political information and educational activities;
- (d) promoting, chartering, coordinating, and supporting Party affiliates;
- (e) growing the Party through attracting and retaining members;
- (f) attracting, nominating, and promoting professional, serious Libertarian candidates for political office;
- (g) promoting Libertarian legislation throughout Colorado.

## **Article III – PRINCIPLES**

<u>Section 1:</u> The Party shall take no positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

#### **Article IV – MEMBERS**

Section 1: Membership in the Party is exclusively limited to all registered electors ("Voters") in the State of Colorado whose Party Affiliation is "Libertarian". Membership in the Party begins on the date an eligible Voter signs an approved voter application form or personal letter conforming to statute (collectively, "Application"), where Libertarian, or a reasonable abbreviation thereof, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder. Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter signs an Application where another party, Unaffiliated, or a reasonable abbreviation of either, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder, or the Voter registers in another state.

<u>Section 2:</u> In the absence of the receipt section from the voter application form which has been properly initialed and dated by a VRD circulator or a copy of the Application notarized no later than the first business day following the date of signing, proof of membership by voter registration shall be determined by the Records Director or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State or the Clerk & Recorder of the county in which the applicant has registered.

<u>Section 3:</u> A prospective member may challenge an error of the Secretary of State or a Clerk and Recorder by virtue of an affidavit signed by two other Party members who are in good standing. <u>Section 4:</u> Any current member of the Party, in good standing, may challenge the validity of the

proof of membership. The burden of proof of invalidation shall be upon the challenging member. <u>Section 5:</u> No membership in any other organizations shall be required of any applicant for consideration for Party membership.

<u>Section 6:</u> All offices, delegations, candidacies, and other roles within the Party and its Affiliates shall be occupied and exercised only by Party Members.

# **Article V – OFFICERS**

<u>Section 1:</u> There shall be eleven Party Officers, as follows: State Chair, Vice Chair, Regions Director, Campaigns Director, Outreach Director, Membership Director, Communications Director, Records Director, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. Only Convention delegates eligible to vote may run for a Party Office, and only if they promise to fulfill the requirements of this article.

Section 2: Except in the case of an appointed Officer, the following Officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years: State Chair, Vice Chair, Regions Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Officers shall be elected in even-numbered years: Outreach Director, Records Director, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. The election of each Office shall be conducted independently of the others, in the order designated in Section 1 of this Article. Such elections shall be conducted as provided in the Bylaws by the delegates to the annual Party Convention, and shall not take effect until the Convention has adjourned and the Officer-Elect has signed the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. The term of each Office shall be two years or until a successor is elected or appointed.

<u>Section 3:</u> An appointed officer's term ends at the adjournment of the next Convention, regardless of year, when an election shall fill either the remainder of the term or the next full term, based on the schedule in section 2.

<u>Section 4:</u> Officer elections shall exclude any office eliminated upon adjournment and shall include any office created upon adjournment, regardless of the year designated for it in section 2, with the term adjusted to end at the convention of the designated year.

#### Article VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Section 1:</u> The Board of Directors shall consist of the Party Officers. The Board of Directors shall be the Party's state central committee.

<u>Section 2:</u> Any member of the Board of Directors may be suspended by vote of two- thirds of the current Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors absent from two consecutive meetings of the Board shall be automatically suspended at adjournment of the second meeting. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote of the current members, appoint or reinstate officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such members to serve until the next Convention. <u>Section 3:</u> The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution and shall meet in the manner specified in the Party Bylaws. The Board shall serve as the Party's vacancy committee.

## **Article VII – CONVENTIONS**

<u>Section 1:</u> The Party shall hold a Convention of Party Delegates each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six months after the previous convention and adjourns no later than

sixty-five days before the day of the Colorado primary election.

<u>Section 2:</u> Arrangements may be made by the Board of Directors to provide for members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. At least forty- five days prior to Convention, the Board shall call the Convention by notifying members of the date and location of the Convention, as well as any remote locations. Additionally, the time and place of any Convention and remote locations shall be published fifteen days prior to such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the members of the Party reside.

<u>Section 3:</u> No fee may be required of any Party member to participate in the business sessions of any Party Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.

Section 4: Delegates to the business meetings of the Convention must have been Members for at least ninety days immediately prior to the day the first such meeting convenes. The Credentials Committee is authorized to impose general selection criteria, such as capping the number of delegates from any number of counties or districts, giving preference to more senior delegates, or other criteria that will ensure fair representation of the Party Membership, provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the call of the Convention.

## **Article VIII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

<u>Section 1:</u> The United States Supreme Court has recognized that the nomination of candidates under political party rules falls under First Amendment Freedom of Association protections and therefore overrides state laws when such rules so state. Therefore, all rules for nominating candidates are limited to only the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and all state laws regarding nominating candidates are to be considered overridden and void. The Party reserves all First Amendment Rights in this regard.

Section 2: Nomination of candidates for offices requiring the vote of all the electors of the state shall be made by the Delegates to the Convention, or by a committee designated thereby. Nomination of candidates for all other offices may be made in the same way. In addition to prospective candidates, "None Of The Above" (NOTA) shall be a choice on every ballot cast. At no time shall NOTA be removed from the ballot, even under suspension of convention rules. Section 3: Nomination of all other candidates may be made by the Party affiliates or district caucus of Party members and affiliates representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate or district caucus may provide, subject to the requirements of this article and ratification by a Party Convention or the Convention's designated committee.

<u>Section 4:</u> Each candidate must have been a Member for at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Primary Election, and shall sign a statement to the effect that he or she supports the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party.

<u>Section 5:</u> In order to qualify for campaign assistance from the Party, any candidate for public office shall be endorsed by a majority of Party members at the State Convention, by a committee designated thereby, or by the Board of Directors.

<u>Section 6</u>: Any candidate representing the Party in a partisan contest where party identification on the ballot is permitted shall use the designation "Libertarian". Only candidates approved by the process set forth in this article may use this designation.

<u>Section 7:</u> At any time that any of the Party's candidates participate in a Primary election, the Party shall opt-out of allowing unaffiliated or other persons who are not Party members from participation and provide appropriate notice to the State of Colorado as provided by law.

## **Article IX – PARTY AFFILIATES**

<u>Section 1:</u> The Board of Directors of the Party may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent counties, or other geographical entities, if requested by affected members and approved by the Board of Directors.

Affiliates shall be chartered for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes:

- 1. nominating candidates for public office;
- 2. working to elect Libertarian candidates and promote Libertarian principles through political information and educational activities;
- 3. selecting representatives to appropriate Party activities.

Each affiliate so chartered shall declare, for the purposes of liaison between the Party and the chartered affiliate, an Affiliate Representative.

<u>Section 2:</u> Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. They shall also submit contact information for their officers, who shall include at least a chair and a treasurer, with both being separate people; they shall maintain at least 5 members, publish their bylaws to those members and the State Board of Directors, and file their initial fair campaign practices act filings as necessary.

<u>Section 3:</u> The Board of Directors shall have the power to revoke the affiliate status of any organization by a three-fourths vote of the current Board if said affiliate supports candidates, policies, or positions inconsistent with the national Party Statement of Principles or the State Party Platform; fails to hold an annual meeting with at least five members where officers are elected with contact information and minutes submitted to the State Board of Directors; or fails to report to the proper governmental agencies their fair campaign practices act filings. Thirty days notice by certified mail shall be given to the Affiliate Representative of the affected affiliate.

## Article X – BYLAWS

<u>Section 1:</u> The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution And Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two Members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt.

## Article XI – PLATFORM

Section 1: The Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention, a Platform stating its position on all political issues affecting the state or any constituent entity thereof, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Platform Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two Members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt. Any platform plank, or the entire Platform, may be repealed by a simple majority of the Delegates to the Convention.

#### **Article XII – AMENDMENTS**

<u>Section 1:</u> The Constitution may be amended at any Party Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a

minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two Members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt. No amendment shall take effect until the adjournment of the Business Session.

<u>Section 2:</u> Any clause which requires a vote greater than the proportion in section 1 shall not be amended except by a vote of the greater proportion, and this section shall not be amended except by a vote of the greatest proportion specified anywhere within this Constitution.

# **APPENDIX B: Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

# **Article I – PARTY AFFILIATES**

<u>Section 1:</u> Organizations applying for charter as affiliates shall make such applications on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board of Directors. The petition shall include ratification of the Statement of Principles. The petition and the ratification shall be signed by no fewer than five (5) Party members.

<u>Section 2:</u> Affiliates shall make known to the Party the Affiliate Representative to whose attention all Party business shall be directed. The Affiliate Representative shall be a Party member

<u>Section 3:</u> Affiliates may choose to accept as "Associate Members," Libertarians who are members of the National Libertarian Party, even though they have signed an approved voter application form establishing their Party affiliation as "Unaffiliated" rather than "Libertarian". If adopted, this policy must be included in the affiliate's Bylaws.

"Associate Members" may be allowed to vote at local affiliate meetings, but shall not be allowed to vote at the State Convention. "Associate Members" may be allowed to receive newsletters and mailings from the affiliate, but would not be allowed to serve as an officer of the Party, including at the affiliate level, or seek nomination as a Libertarian Party candidate for any public office.

# **Article II – DUTIES OF THE BOARD**

Section 1: The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the Board of Directors. The State Chair may appoint such Party functionaries as a recording and corresponding secretary, an office manager, and an events chair. The State Chair shall compile, maintain and make available to the Board of Directors a publication listing all "Standing rules" and "Special rules" adopted by the Board of Directors. The State Chair shall specify the date and time of the next Convention at least 45 days before it is convened. The State Chair, or his or her designee, including other Board members acting within their designated job duties at the direction of the Chair, shall be the person who shall communicate on behalf of the Party. The State Chair shall file any amendments to the Party's Constitution or Bylaws with the Secretary of State within fifteen days after such amendments are adopted.

<u>Section 2:</u> The Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair in the performance of executive duties, act as Chair in the temporary absence of the State Chair, develop and support affiliate parties and district caucuses, ensure affiliate compliance with requirements in the Party Constitution and Bylaws, communicate with Affiliate Representatives on a monthly basis, and facilitate resource sharing and cooperation among the affiliates.

<u>Section 3:</u> The Regions Director shall be responsible for representing the regions and for coordinating campaigns, media, outreach, and other party functions in those regions. The regions shall be composed of the following counties:

- 1. Pikes Peak: El Paso, Park, Teller
- 2. **Upper Arkansas:** Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Lake
- 3. Southeast: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo
- 4. San Luis: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Saguache

- 5. San Juan: Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel
- 6. Western Slope: Delta, Gunnison, Mesa. Montrose, Ouray
- 7. Central: Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Pitkin, Summit
- 8. Northwest: Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt
- 9. **Metro:** Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson
- 10. Northeast: Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld
- 11. Plains: Cheyenne, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Yuma

<u>Section 4:</u> The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and coordinate candidate and issue development. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for and coordinate all political campaigns of the Party.

<u>Section 5:</u> The Outreach Director shall be responsible for recruiting members, having speakers, conducting recruiting events, organizing and supporting student clubs and organizations at high schools, colleges, and universities and setting up and operating a speakers bureau.

<u>Section 6:</u> The Communications Director shall be responsible for all communications, web sites, multimedia, social media, press releases, media appearances, and media inquiries.

Section 7: The Records Director shall be responsible for maintaining membership records, coordinating membership data with the National LP, providing information (such as mailing labels and precinct walking lists) as needed, and administering the Party's physical office space (including computer systems, telephone systems, and any paid positions). The Records Director shall act as recording secretary for all legal purposes and shall maintain a Party calendar of all deadlines required by these Bylaws, the Party Constitution, and the Secretary of State.

<u>Section 8:</u> The Legislative Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity in the State Legislature, communicating with that body, developing issue oriented interest groups, and working with other organizations on areas of mutual concern.

<u>Section 9:</u> The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all income and expenses associated with the operation of the Party and shall present a summary of all income and expenses incurred at the regular meeting of the Board. The income and expense summary may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the Board. The Treasurer shall also prepare budgets for the other board members or assist them in preparing their own budgets.

<u>Section 10:</u> The Fundraising Director shall be responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities including, but not limited to, a monthly pledge program, and for reporting all income and expenses related to fundraising at the regular Board meeting.

Section 11: The Membership Director shall be responsible for developing membership education programs and publications, including final responsibility for publishing a regular newsletter, recruiting and training activists from the membership, and overseeing leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party, categorizing and contacting current individual members (registered Libertarian voters) to ask/persuade the members to support the LPCO financially or actively and for monthly reporting the same to the Board and affiliates.

Section 12: Each Officer will be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her

<u>Section 12:</u> Each Officer will be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her area and will provide a written report to be passed on to the next Officer. He or she will not incur expenses beyond budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 13: Each Officer shall be an ex-officio member of each Party Affiliate Board of Directors for the purposes of (A) upholding the spirit and letter of the Statement of Principles; (B) enforcing the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and the Rules and Resolutions adopted by the Convention or the State Board, and (C) providing relief in times of distress. Officers shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at an Affiliate Annual or Board

Meeting but may be counted in determining that a quorum is present. Each Officer shall actively participate in a meeting of at least one Party Affiliate or Development Group each calendar year.

## **Article III – MEETINGS**

Section 1: Any meeting to elect party officers, including Delegates, and any assembly to nominate candidates, shall be held at a public place at the time specified by the State Chair, and the time and place of such meeting shall be published once, no later than fifteen days before such meeting in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall convene in open meeting at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the State Chair, or by written request of one-third or more of the Board, with notice to be sent to the official email address of each Board Member at least 48 hours prior to such meeting. Such meetings shall be called at least once per calendar month.

<u>Section 3:</u> More than one-half of the current membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by the Constitution. Any member of the Board may participate in a Board meeting or committee meeting by means of telephone conference or similar communications equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear or otherwise communicate with each other.

<u>Section 4:</u> Boards may transact business by electronic communications, as specified by standing rules adopted by the State Board. Committees appointed by the Board have the authority to transact business by electronic communication as specified by their own standing rules or Special Rules of Order.

<u>Section 5:</u> Any active member of the Party may attend the Board Meetings as an `alternate delegate' at the request of that Board Member who temporarily cannot attend. No alternate delegate may represent more than one Board Member at any board meeting. The Board Member who is being represented by an alternate must notify at least two other Board Members of the alternate.

## Article IV – FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1: The fiscal term of the Party shall end on the last day of March.

<u>Section 2:</u> The Board of Directors shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be established and maintained.

# **Article V – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Section 1: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Party Constitution, Party Bylaws, and any standing rules and any special rules of order the Party or the Board of Directors may adopt. If a new edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is released six months prior to the next State Party Convention, they will become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of that convention. If they are released less than six months prior to the next State Party Convention, they will become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of the next year's State Convention.

## **Article VI – COMMITTEES**

<u>Section 1:</u> The Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five at-large members selected by the Board of Directors and an additional member selected by each chartered Affiliate.

Section 2: The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Party members at least six months prior to the Party Convention. The Board shall appoint five at-large members at an open Board meeting held at least one month after the final solicitation but no later than four months prior to the Party Convention. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially appointed at-large positions, the Board of Directors may select Party members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

<u>Section 3:</u> Each chartered affiliate may appoint one member to the committees. Should an affiliate not appoint its delegate, the Board of Directors may appoint an additional at-large member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one delegate from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to Section 2 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such delegates as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two consecutive committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.

<u>Section 4:</u> Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership not later than six weeks before the Party Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party member upon request, and the Board may charge only the cost of reproduction and mailing. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the Convention.

<u>Section 5:</u> Chairs of committees shall be responsible for completion and reproduction at Party expense of their final reports, and of interim documents for committee use, and for scheduling of committee meetings. All committee meetings shall be open to Party members, who may request the committees' schedules from their respective Chairs.

<u>Section 6:</u> The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety as approved by the Convention.

<u>Section 7:</u> The Style Committee shall consist of the previous chairs of the Constitution and Bylaws, and Platform Committees from the previous Convention year and three at-large Party members selected by the Board of Directors. The Style Committee shall propose stylistic changes to the Platform, Constitution, and Bylaws, non-substantive in nature, to the Board for Ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, rejection, or determination as a substantive change. Substantive changes to be proposed shall be forwarded or referred to the current Platform or Constitution and Bylaws Committees as appropriate.

<u>Section 8:</u> Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the State Chair as the Board of Directors or State Convention shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Party.

# Article VII – ELECTION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

<u>Section 1:</u> All delegates must have been members or have been pre-registered to become members of the state Party for at least ninety days immediately prior to the first day of the

business in which they are elected and must sign a statement to the effect that they support the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party.

<u>Section 2:</u> The Party Chair shall announce to the Convention body the number of delegates and the number to be selected by the Convention.

<u>Section 3:</u> Nominations for delegate positions shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves.

Each member in attendance at the Convention shall cast a single vote for each delegate candidate of his or her choice. The total votes cast by each member shall not exceed the number of delegates to be selected. Delegates shall be elected by a simple majority of those voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining delegate positions. In the event that there are more candidates receiving a majority vote than there are delegate positions to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected.

<u>Section 4:</u> After the delegates are elected, alternates may be selected by a majority of those voting.

<u>Section 5:</u> The duly elected delegates shall immediately select a delegation chair and determine their own substitution procedures. Such substitutions shall be made without regard to Congressional District representation. A list of the delegates and alternates, and a description of the substitution procedures, shall be submitted by the delegation chair to the State Chair and the secretary of the national Libertarian Party within seven (7) days after the Convention is adjourned.

<u>Section 6:</u> Representatives and alternates to national Party committees and subcommittees shall be elected by one of the following methods:

If the number of representatives to national Libertarian Party Committees is known at the time of the Party Convention and the committees are to convene after the Convention, the Convention shall elect representatives and alternates in the same manner as and immediately after the election of at-large national convention delegates; otherwise the Board of Directors shall elect the committee representatives and alternates by majority vote.

### **Article VIII – COUNTY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

Section 1: For each county without an Affiliate, the Board or a committee it appoints for this purpose may charter one or more Development Groups for the purpose of increasing Party membership, communication, and influence within the county as an interim to establishing a formally organized Affiliate. Subject to the provisions below and any rules and instructions issued by the Board, a Development Group shall have the power to select its own name and leadership; adopt rules and agenda; and set times and places of meeting.

Section 2: A Development Group may be assigned to a subset of precincts within a county. Development Groups shall not overlap geographically. Development Groups may negotiate among themselves with respect to merging or splitting or gaining or releasing one or more precincts and shall notify the Board within three business days of any such changes made. Section 3: A Development Group may have as members any residents within its geographical boundary as well as any residents not living within any other currently chartered Development Group boundary. Development Group leadership shall be limited to Party Members and shall submit a report of activities to the Regions Director at least once per quarter or upon request. Section 4: Development Groups may, jointly or separately, engage in outreach and voter registration; membership education, support, and training; recruiting activists and potential

candidates; raising funds on behalf of the Party; and supporting or opposing local issues, subject to Board approval.

A Development Group shall not nominate or endorse candidates for office. A Development Group shall not interact with the media except by the approval and instruction of the State Chair.

A Development Group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties and shall submit all money collected and records of the donors to the Party Treasurer within three business days of receipt. A Development Group shall not spend money except as authorized by the Party Treasurer or the Board.

<u>Section 5:</u> The Board may revoke the charter of any Development Group at any time and without cause. Upon the formation of an Affiliate within a county, all Development Groups therein shall become constituents of and wholly subject to that Affiliate.

# **APPENDIX C:**

# **Constitution Proposal 04: Add NAP Pledge for Candidates**

Proposed by the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposal was not heard on the floor at the 2016 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention Adopted without changes by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** The Party Constitution, Article V, Section 2, requires that all Board Members sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. The Party Constitution Article VIII, Section 4, requires that State and local candidates only sign the former and not the latter.

**Solution:** Add the second qualifying requirement for State and local candidates that are required for Board Members.

**Benefits:** Provides consistency in Party leadership and representation requirements of basic support for Libertarian principles.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### **Article VIII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

Section 4: Each candidate must have been a Member for at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Primary Election, and shall sign a statement to the effect that he or she supports the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

# Constitution Proposal 05: Clarify Deadline for Member Amendment Submissions to the Bylaws

Proposed by the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposal was not heard on the floor at the 2016 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention Adopted without changes by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** The current deadline for member submissions for Bylaws amendments is unclear and not based upon a time-certain deadline but dependent upon a moving target of Board meeting dates.

**Solution:** Provide a time-certain deadline for member submissions for Bylaws amendments.

**Benefits:** Gives members certainty about the deadline for proposed Bylaws amendments.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### Article X – BYLAWS

<u>Section 1</u>: The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates to the State Party Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two Members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the State Party Convention to the Board at least four weeks prior to the State Party Convention, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt.

# Constitution Proposal 06A: Clarify Deadline for Member Amendment Submissions to the Platform

Proposed by the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposal was not heard on the floor at the 2016 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention Adopted without changes by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

Chair's Note: This version of the proposal will only be presented if Constitution Proposal 01 passes with the delegation. In the event that Constitution Proposal 01 does not pass with the delegation, Proposal 06B will be presented to the delegation and this version disregarded.

**Problem:** The current deadline for member submissions for Platform amendments is unclear and not based upon a time-certain deadline but dependent upon a moving target of Board meeting dates.

**Solution:** Provide a time-certain deadline for member submissions for Platform amendments.

**Benefits:** Gives members certainty about the deadline for proposed Platform amendments.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### Article XI – PLATFORM

Section 1: The Party has ratified as a condition of its affiliation with the National Party the Statement of Principles of the National Party, which shall be included in any published Party Platform. The Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention, a Platform stating its position on all political issues affecting the state or any constituent entity thereof, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Platform Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board at least four weeks prior to the State Party Convention, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt. Any platform plank, or the entire Platform, with the exception of the National Party's Statement of Principles, may be repealed by a simple majority of the Delegates to the Convention.

# Constitution Proposal 06B: Clarify Deadline for Member Amendment Submissions to the Platform

Proposed by the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws Committee Proposal was not heard on the floor at the 2016 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention Adopted without changes by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

Chair's Note: This version of the proposal will only be presented if Constitution Proposal 01 does not pass with the delegation. In the event that Constitution Proposal 01 passes with the delegation, Proposal 06A will be presented to the delegation and this version disregarded.

**Problem:** The current deadline for member submissions for Platform amendments is unclear and not based upon a time-certain deadline but dependent upon a moving target of Board meeting dates.

**Solution:** Provide a time-certain deadline for member submissions for Platform amendments.

**Benefits:** Gives members certainty about the deadline for proposed Platform amendments.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### Article XI – PLATFORM

Section 1: The Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention, a Platform stating its position on all political issues affecting the state or any constituent entity thereof, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Platform Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board at least four weeks prior to the State Party Convention, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt. Any platform plank, or the entire Platform, may be repealed by a simple majority of the Delegates to the Convention.

# Constitution Proposal 07: Clarify Deadline for Member Amendment Submissions to the Constitution

Proposed by the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws Committee
Proposal was not heard on the floor at the 2016 Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention
Adopted without changes by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** The current deadline for member submissions for Constitution amendments is unclear and not based upon a time-certain deadline but dependent upon a moving target of Board meeting dates.

**Solution:** Provide a time-certain deadline for member submissions for Constitution amendments.

**Benefits:** Gives members certainty about the deadline for proposed Constitution amendments.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### **Article XII – AMENDMENTS**

<u>Section 1</u>: The Constitution may be amended at any State Party Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two members is provided at least two Board meetings prior to the State Party Convention to the Board at least four weeks prior to the State Party Convention, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt. No amendment shall take effect until the adjournment of the Business Session.

# Constitution Proposal 08: Establish Endorsement Requirement

Adopted by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** Neither the Constitution nor Bylaws require that the Libertarian Party of Colorado, its officers, or affiliate groups only endorse Libertarians for partisan office.

**Solution:** Require that the Party and those in the Party do not hurt the chances of a Libertarian winning office by curtailing said individuals and groups from choosing to endorse candidates from other parties.

**Benefits:** Ensures that the Libertarian Party is unified in endorsing Libertarian candidates and not those from other parties.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### **Article VIII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

Section 7: The Party, its affiliates and its elected officers, either individually or as a group, shall endorse only Libertarian candidates for nomination or election to partisan public office.

# **Constitution Proposal 09: Procedure for Board Member Absences**

Adopted by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** Currently the Constitution requires that a board member be removed from office for missing two meetings. This requirement does not leave the option open to the board to excuse absences based on technological difficulties, traffic issues, or other various day-to-day emergencies.

**Solution:** Allow the Board the option to review absences and make determinations as to whether an absence should be excused or not, as they see fit.

**Benefits:** Allows the Board flexibility to interpret absences and whether members of the board made reasonable efforts to participate and clarifies language.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### Article VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Section 2:</u> Any member of the Board of Directors may be suspended by vote of two- thirds of the current Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors absent from two <u>regular</u> consecutive meetings of the Board <u>may be shall be automatically</u> suspended at adjournment of the second <u>regular</u> meeting. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote of the current members, appoint or reinstate officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such members to serve until the next Convention.

# **Constitution Proposal 10: Establish Procedure for Resolutions**

Adopted by the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, unanimously

**Problem:** Our current Constitution does not lay out the process for making resolutions at the State Convention.

**Solution:** Establish a provision outlining the process of introducing a resolution on the floor of a State Party Convention.

Benefits: Allows for members to submit resolutions.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

## **Article VII – CONVENTIONS**

Section 5: Resolutions may be adopted at any State Party Convention by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates to the Convention provided that a copy of the Resolution is provided to the Board at least four weeks prior to the State Party Convention, which notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two business days of receipt.

Proviso: If passed, this change will become a part of the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado following the 2017 State Party Convention.