

MEMBER BYLAWS PROPOSAL #1

DATE SUBMITTED TO BOARD: May 29, 2025

SPONSORS: Caryn Ann Harlos, Wayne Harlos - Sustaining Members by virtue of being registered Libertarian and Life Members of the national Libertarian Party (proof from Executive Director Hannah Kennedy is in possession of signatories and can be provided upon request)

SIGNATURES: 

Submitting this is not a waiver (though notice requirements cannot be waived) of the right any member has to object that the Board has failed to provide Bylaws-required notice of the Annual Convention.

RATIONALE: If members feel that there is immediate action or correction that must be taken, they should have a means to call a Special Convention. This is also best practice as an emergency member in which the Party is in a crisis situation, and the Board is unable or unwilling to deal with the crisis. This further allows the Party to handle any grave issues or disputes between conventions without any need or temptation to involve the state court system which otherwise would be the only recourse in some situations. This would not completely eliminate that possibility or need but would greatly reduce it. Further, the national Libertarian Party has been studying having Presidential nominating conventions earlier, and we should have some failsafe in the event that it causes difficulties with our delegate nominations.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Article XI: Conventions

Section 1. General Provisions for Conventions

- (a) Proxy voting is expressly prohibited.
- (b) Only the Annual Convention is to be considered a "regular convention."
- (c) Direct notice of any state convention to Sustaining Members is to be provided via first class mail to the address on file with the Secretary of State at least forty-five (45) days prior to the convention and concurrently be posted on the Party website.
- (d) The time and place of all Party conventions shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such convention.
- (e) No fees may be levied to participate in the Business Session of any convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.

[...]

Section 3. Special Conventions

- (a) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business must be done between Annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law and these Bylaws, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.
- (b) The Board may provide for remote participation in any Special Convention.
- (c) Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next Annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.
- (d) All current Sustaining Members that were eligible to vote at the previous Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

AMENDMENT WITH MARKUP:

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- (d) The time and place of all Party conventions shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such convention.
- (e) No fees may be levied to participate in the Business Session of any convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.
- (f) The Board may provide for fully remote participation in any Special Convention.
- (g) Any changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next Annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void. If those changes narrowed or expanded the requirements to be a voting delegate, only those Sustaining Members who would have qualified under the previous requirement may vote to ratify.
- (h) All current Sustaining Members that would have been eligible to vote at the previous Annual Convention (whether or not they attended) shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention with the exception of a Special Delegation Nominating Convention at which all current Sustaining Members who have been Sustaining Members for at least the immediately preceding ninety (90) days shall be eligible to vote.

[...]

Section 3. Special Conventions

(i) Special Conventions Called by the Board

- (i) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business must be done between Annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law and these Bylaws, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.
- (ii) If the national Libertarian Party Convention is scheduled to take place earlier than, or less than thirty (30) days after, the Party's Annual Convention for that same year, the Board shall call a Special Delegation Nominating Convention for the sole purpose of electing national Convention Delegates and Alternates no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the national Convention. No other business may be heard at this Special Delegation Nominating Convention.
- ~~(iii) — The Board may provide for remote participation in any Special Convention.~~
- ~~(iv) — Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next Annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.~~
- ~~(v) — All current Sustaining Members that were eligible to vote at the previous Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.~~

(i) Special Conventions Called by the Sustaining Membership

- ~~(i) — A Special Convention must be called upon written Petition of 20% of the Sustaining Membership who would have been qualified to vote at the previous Annual Convention (whether or not they attended the previous Annual Convention), limited to only those items of business specified the Membership Petition, which can include, but is not limited to, amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year; recall of any Board members and the filling of any subsequent vacancies; and filling mid-term vacancies on the Board. The Board shall promptly work with the Petition Organizers to validate the eligibility of signatories.~~
- ~~(ii) — If the Board is put on notice via email or announcement at a Board meeting of a Petition effort for a Special Convention to fill any mid-term vacancy on the Board, the Board shall wait at least fourteen (14) days to fill any such vacancy to give the Petition Organizers time to gather adequate signatures. If the Petition effort is successful, the Board cannot fill such vacancies under its own authority.~~

- (iii) Upon written request of ten (10) Sustaining Members, the Board shall promptly send a postcard (at the expense of the requestors) and an email to the Sustaining Membership to the extent possible; in addition to posting on the Party website, a request for Sustaining Members to sign a Petition for a Special Convention including the items of business to be considered and how to contact the Petition Organizers, as well as a link to sign the Petition if available.
- (iv) All costs of notice including the postcards and newspaper publication for a Sustaining Membership-called Special Convention shall be borne by the Petition Organizers. The Board shall call the Special Convention for the earliest possible date after payment of such expenses or at a later date if specified in the Petition, but in no circumstance may a Sustaining Membership-called convention be held in the forty-five (45) days leading up to a Regular Annual Convention.
- (v) The Petition may require that the Special Convention be held virtually. If the Petition does not specify, and the Board decides to hold the Special Convention in person, the Party shall bear any venue costs.

LANGUAGE IF PASSED:

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Mark-Up Legend:

~~Red, bold, strikethrough indicates deletion.~~

Blue, bold, underline indicates addition.

Re-numbering and moving of points into sub-points when new heading is created is a clerical function to be performed by Secretary. Auto-numbering features may prevent mark-up on the numbering designation only of any deleted or new provisions.