

James,

The officers of the Libertarian Party of Colorado believe in following the Bylaws of the State Party to the best of our ability and when mistakes are discovered to remedy them in the most just and equitable manner available to us in accordance with these Bylaws. For this reason when the breach in the notice requirement for the June 28 2025 LPCO State Convention was discovered the convention was canceled and the voting members were immediately notified by email.

It has come to our attention that some LPCO members seem to believe that the notice of the June 28, 2025 LPCO State Convention is valid as a matter of absentee rights. It is not valid. It is a violation of a "fundamental principle of parliamentary law," and, as such, a violation of RONR, 23:6 d). Any action taken, other than an immediate adjournment, during any improperly called June 28, 2025 LPCO State Convention will be null and void and subject to review by point of order during any future LPCO State Convention.

RONR, the current edition, provides that, "It is a fundamental principle of parliamentary law that the right to vote is limited to the members of an organization who are actually present at the time the vote is taken in a regular or properly called meeting, although it should be noted that a member need not be present when the question is put (45:56)."

RONR goes even further, stating, "If the announced result of a vote included votes cast in violation of a fundamental principle of parliamentary law, such as votes cast by nonmembers or by absent members, or multiple votes improperly cast by a single member, a point of order can be raised so long as the decision arrived at as a result of the vote has continuing force and effect. If there is any possibility that the vote(s) would have affected the outcome, the results of the vote must be declared invalid if the point of order is sustained (23:8)." All votes at an improperly called meeting will violate a fundamental principle of parliamentary law and be null and void.

Even if every possible Libertarian Party member in the state were to gather someplace, they could not take any action. That is because that this is not a properly called meeting.

The Convention that was planned was not properly called. The Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1, d) provide that 15 days notice of the convention be published in a newspaper of general circulation. This was, unfortunately, not done. Further Article X, a. repeats this requirement for meetings where directors are elected. Therefore the meeting cannot be properly held and any supposed actions taken would be those of the individuals taking them.

We urge our membership to reject any claims of absentee rights to justify calls to proceed in holding a convention during which any action taken would be null and void.

Signed,

Hannah Goodman
Chair
Libertarian Party of Colorado

Sent by: James Wiley, Secretary/Executive Director



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James,

We are writing to provide further clarification regarding the cancellation of the June 28, 2025 LPCO State Convention and to address specific claims that have arisen. Our priority remains ensuring that all party actions comply with the LPCO Bylaws and applicable laws, and we are committed to providing proper notice as we move forward.

The LPCO Bylaws, specifically Article XI, Section 1, d) and Article X, a), require that notice of the convention be published in a newspaper of general circulation at least 15 days prior to the event. This requirement was not met for the June 28, 2025 convention, leading to its cancellation. Failure to adhere to these provisions means that any actions taken at an improperly called meeting would be null and void under both our Bylaws and parliamentary law (RONR, 23:6 d).

One suggested that a calendar listing in the Colorado Politics calendar constitutes proper notice. While Colorado Politics is a "newspaper of general circulation," a calendar listing, printed and distributed on June 24 and published online on June 23 does not satisfy the Bylaws' specific requirement for publication 15 days before the meeting. The Colorado Politics calendar, produced of their own editorial initiative from publicly available information is not intended or capable of fulfilling a public notice requirement as it wasn't initiated by the party required to provide the notice. Colorado Politics confirmed for us upon inquiry that due to the two reasons stated, the publication presenting the following week's events and the information being presented by a third party, their calendar could not be considered legal notice.

Colorado state law, under C.R.S. § 1-4-1301(1)(h), governs political party conventions and includes notice requirements. Compliance with both our Bylaws and state law is essential for the legitimacy of any elected board. A board elected at a meeting without proper notice—as defined by both the Bylaws and this statute—would not be lawfully constituted. This could jeopardize the party's legal standing and the validity of its decisions, which we are determined to avoid.

C.R.S § 1-4-1301

(1) A minor political party shall adopt a constitution or set of bylaws to govern its organization and the conduct of its affairs and shall exercise thereunder any power not inconsistent with the laws of this state. The constitution or set of bylaws shall be filed with the secretary of state. Any minor political party failing to file its constitution or set of bylaws pursuant to this section shall not be qualified as a minor political party. The constitution or set of bylaws shall contain the following:

...

(h) A statement that 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 party chairperson and that 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 the members of the minor political party reside;

We have heard concerns that the failure to provide proper notice was intentional. We want to emphasize that this was an unintentional oversight, not a deliberate act. The cancellation has imposed significant costs—both in time and money—on the party, its leadership, volunteers, staff, contractors and most regrettably, our members. We recognize and sincerely regret the inconveniences and expenses borne by our members, many of whom, like ourselves, made non-refundable arrangements to attend. These shared burdens underscore our commitment to getting this right in the future.

We deeply sympathize with the frustration caused by this situation. Our team is actively planning a new convention, ensuring full compliance with notice requirements, at a time and place designed to be even more convenient for our members. We are optimistic that this future gathering will meet the needs of Colorado Libertarians, providing a robust platform for participation and progress.

Thank you for your understanding and dedication to our shared principles. We look forward to convening soon under proper conditions.

Sincerely,

Hannah Goodman
Chair
Libertarian Party of Colorado

Sent by: James Wiley, Secretary/Executive Director



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