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June 29, 2025

Hannah Goodman, Chair
Libertarian Party of Colorado

Dear Chairman Goodman:

On June 28, 2025, a group of members attempted to hold a meeting in violation of the Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO) bylaws. Such a gathering was called in violation of the bylaws and is void. Any action taken by this group will not be action of the LPCO but of these individuals, for which they assume all responsibility. Any claim by these individuals of acting on behalf of the LPCO will be an act of deliberate misrepresentation.

The LPCO bylaws require, among other things, that:

“Any meeting to elect Party Directors or National Convention Delegates, or any assembly to nominate candidates, shall be held at a public place at the time specified by the Chair. The time and place of such meeting shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such meeting (Article X, a.).”

Further, the Bylaws note that:

“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 (Article XI, Section 1.d)”

This is in addition to any other notice requirements. There is nothing ambiguous about this bylaw.

Through the error of the LPCO officers, this required notice was not sent, though other forms of required notice were sent. The error was discovered on the evening of June 23, and the members were informed of this by email on the morning of June 24. Further, the chair and executive director clarified this in additional emails, noting the problem that this was a violation of a “fundamental principle of parliamentary law” and that no action can be taken at such a meeting (RONR 12th ed., 23:6 d.). In addition, as the Colorado Minor Party Law does require that this clause be placed in the bylaws of minor parties, this may be a legal requirement for notice¹. If it is, any action taken by this group of members would be in violation of a procedural rule of law that is applicable to the LPCO and would be void on that ground as well (RONR 12th ed., 23:6 c). At the gathering, the LPCO members present were also informed of this.

The “fundamental principle” regarding this:

“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. (RONR 12 ed., 45:56).”

At least two members of the authorship team, Mr. Gerber and Mr. Honemann, did opine on the issue in the last several months². Both concluded that, even if all members of the organization were present, taking an action in violation of this fundamental principle would still cause the action to be void. While I do disagree with both men at times, I do not disagree here. Any action taken at this gathering is **not** the action taken “in a regular or properly called meeting” of the LPCO and is void, in my professional judgment.

Note that, as just stated, this has nothing to do with absentee rights. The LPCO should prepare for a legitimately called and noticed election. No member may legitimately claim that this June 28, 2025 gathering was a legitimate LPCO convention. To do so at this point will be to deliberately engage in misrepresentation.

Please note that I will be willing to testify to these matters under oath, if need be.

Truly yours,

Jonathan M. Jacobs

Jonathan M. Jacobs, RP, CPP.

End notes:

¹ I do not take a stand on if statute requires that notice “be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such meeting,” and a violation of 23:6 c.

I have, however, heard the claim that a “notice” was published on the website *Independent Political Report*. The claim that a website that is not located in Colorado, does not cover “local news,” and is not a newspaper, meets this requirement strains bylaw interpretation well beyond the breaking point.

² <https://robertsrules.forumflash.com/topic/45608-improperly-called-meeting-with-all-members-in-attendance/>

I do not necessarily agree with Mr. Honemann’s characterizations of individuals nor with the suggestion that some sort of mass meeting could rule on a permanent organization’s bylaws.