

Libertarian Party of Colorado Judicial Committee

Case Report and Verdict

Case Information

- Case Title: Appeal to Declare Null and Void the Purported LPCO Convention on June 28, 2025, and All Subsequent Actions Resulting Therefrom
- Case Number: JC-2025-01
- Date of Appeal Submission: July 25, 2025
- Appellant: Hannah Goodman, in her capacity as Chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado (LPCO), on behalf of the LPCO Board of Directors
- Respondents: Keith Laube (purported Chair of the Emergency Board Oversight Committee), Marc Montoni (purported Convention Chair Pro Tem), Jeffory Orrok (purported Convention Secretary Pro Tem), Daniel Lutz, Bette Rose Ryan, Douglas Jones (purported EBOC members), and John and Jane Does 1-28 (participants in the purported convention)
- Judicial Committee Members Hearing the Case: Eric Buelstel, Reyd Dotson, Kyle Furey, Jesse Campbell, and Aron Lam
- Date of Hearing: August 29, 2025 (virtual hearing conducted via video conference)
- Date of Verdict: September 2, 2025

Summary of the Case

This appeal challenges the validity of a purported LPCO State Convention held on June 28, 2025, in Holyoke, Colorado, and all derivative actions, resolutions, elections, and communications arising therefrom. The Appellant asserts that the convention was improperly noticed under LPCO Bylaws, rendering it and all subsequent actions null and void. The Judicial Committee, exercising its appellate jurisdiction under LPCO Bylaws Article IX, Section 4(a)(5), reviewed the appeal, briefs supplied, and supporting evidence. After deliberation, the Committee unanimously finds in favor of the Appellant on all counts, citing the failure to provide proper newspaper publication notice as the primary basis for invalidation.

Parties Involved

- Appellant: Hannah Goodman, LPCO Chair, acting on behalf of the LPCO Board of Directors pursuant to a unanimous vote on July 14, 2025. As a lifetime member of the Libertarian Party, she is authorized under LPCO Bylaws Article VII, Section 3(a) to enforce bylaws compliance and manage conventions.

- Respondents: Members of the group named above as Respondents, including named individuals who participated in or acted under the authority of the June 28, 2025, meeting. They purported to form an Emergency Board Oversight Committee (EBOC) and undertake actions such as demanding membership lists, publishing notices, and scheduling a continuation convention.
- Affected Parties: As identified in the appeal, these include LPCO Board members, Sustaining Members, Basic Members, the LPCO as an organization, affiliates, and supported candidates, all of whom have been impacted by confusion and unauthorized actions stemming from the invalid convention.

Factual Background

The 2025 LPCO State Convention was initially scheduled for May 31, 2025, in Keenesburg, Colorado, but canceled due to venue issues. It was rescheduled to June 28, 2025, in Holyoke, with postcards sent to Sustaining Members at least 45 days prior. However, on June 24, 2025, the LPCO Chair and Executive Director notified members via email of a critical error: failure to publish notice in newspapers of general circulation at least 15 days prior to the convention, as required by LPCO Bylaws and Colorado state law (C.R.S. § 1-4-1301(1)(h)). Despite this notification and in-person warnings from the LPCO Chair that no valid meeting could proceed, approximately 28 sustaining members convened at 9:52 AM on June 28, 2025. They purported to elect temporary officers, pass resolutions (including forming the EBOC with authority to expend funds and demand resources), amend bylaws, and adjourn to a future date. Subsequent actions included demands for membership lists (July 7, 2025), instructions to post information on the LPCO website (July 8, 2025), and mailing notices to Sustaining Members announcing an August 23, 2025, continuation. The LPCO Board, in response, properly noticed a rescheduled convention for October 18, 2025, complying with all bylaw requirements. A parliamentary opinion from Mr. Jonathon Jacobs, a registered and certified parliamentarian, dated June 29, 2025, further supported the invalidity of the June 28 actions under Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR), adopted by the LPCO.

The appeal was filed within 30 days of the disputed actions, as required by LPCO Bylaws Article IX, Section 5(a).

Legal Basis

The Judicial Committee's review is governed by LPCO Bylaws Article IX, which limits its scope to appellate jurisdiction over challenges to convention resolutions, board decisions, and related matters. Key provisions cited include:

- LPCO Bylaws Article X(a): Requires publication of the time and place of any meeting to elect Party Directors or nominate candidates in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where Members reside, no later than 15 days before such meeting. This aligns with C.R.S. § 1-4-1301(1)(h) to ensure compliance with state law for assemblies where officers may be elected or candidates nominated.

- LPCO Bylaws Article XI, Section 1(c): Mandates direct first-class mail notice to Sustaining Members at least 45 days prior to any state convention.
- LPCO Bylaws Article XI, Section 1(d): Requires publication of the time and place in a newspaper of general circulation in each county where Members reside, no later than 15 days before the convention, to notify Basic Members who rely on such publication for attendance rights.
- RONR (12th Edition), Sections 45:56, 23:6(d): As the adopted parliamentary authority, it establishes that voting rights are limited to members present at a properly called meeting, and actions violating fundamental parliamentary principles (such as improper notice) are null and void.
- Precedent: National Judicial Committee Decision in Bill Hinds vs. Libertarian National Committee (February 13, 2022), invalidating actions at disputed meetings for lack of proper notice.

The Respondents argued that Colorado nonprofit law allowed the meeting without elections for directors, but this does not supersede LPCO Bylaws requirements for conventions.

Analysis

The core issue is the improper notice for the June 28, 2025, convention. The failure to publish notice in newspapers of general circulation at least 15 days prior violated LPCO Bylaws Article X(a) and Article XI, Section 1(d). This defect invalidated the entire proceeding, as it deprived Basic Members of their right to notice and attendance, usurped the Chair's authority under Article VII, Section 3(a) to call and manage conventions, and contravened state law. Under RONR, such a violation of fundamental parliamentary principles renders all actions null and void. The purported resolutions, including EBOC formation, were derivative of this invalid meeting and thus share its invalidity. Subsequent actions (e.g., demands for lists, website postings, and mailed notices) exacerbated the harm by sowing confusion and unauthorized representation, violating Article VII, Section 1(c) (Board control) and confidentiality under C.R.S. § 7-136-102(3)(b). Any actions taken during the August 23rd convention continuation are also null and void, regardless of notice provided, because it is a continuation of a previous improperly noticed and invalid convention. The Chair acted promptly and in good faith to notify members of the notice deficiency upon discovery.

The burden of proof (preponderance of evidence) was met by the Appellant through documentary evidence. No evidence from Respondents cured the notice defects.

Verdict

The Judicial Committee unanimously grants the Appellant's requested relief in full:

1. The purported June 28, 2025, LPCO State Convention is declared null and void for violations of LPCO Bylaws Article X(a) and Article XI, Section 1(d) regarding improper newspaper publication notice.
2. All actions, resolutions, elections, and subsequent communications arising therefrom are declared null and void, including but not limited to:

- The improperly noticed June 28, 2025, meeting;
 - All resolutions passed therein, including the Resolution to Create the EBOC;
 - Any bylaws adopted or amended therein;
 - The election of any Chair Pro Tem or Convention Secretary Pro Tem therein;
 - The formation of the EBOC and election of the EBOC Chair and members;
 - The July 7, 2025, letter demanding the membership list;
 - The July 8, 2025, letter demanding posting on the website;
 - The letter sent to all Sustaining Members announcing the August 23, 2025, meeting, casting doubt on the October 18, 2025, convention, and promoting invalid actions;
 - Any continuation of the previous improperly noticed and invalid June 28 convention proceedings on August 23, 2025.
3. The LPCO Chair is declared to have acted in good faith in notifying members of the notice deficiency as soon as practicable.
 4. Keith Laube, Marc Montoni, Jeffery Orrok, Daniel Lutz, Bette Rose Ryan, Douglas Jones, and associated individuals shall immediately cease all activities under purported EBOC authority. Any statements or communications claiming such authority shall be retracted within five (5) business days. A statement declaring these actions overturned by the Judicial Committee shall be inserted into Party records and published on the LPCO website, with notice mailed to Sustaining Members and published for Basic Members as required by bylaws.

This verdict is final unless appealed to the Delegates at the next regular Convention per LPCO Bylaws Article IX, Section 9, requiring presentation by at least 20 Members, majority vote to hear the appeal, and a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to overturn.

Signed,



Eric Bueltel
On Behalf of the LPCO Judicial Committee
September 2, 2025