



LPTexas | 2024 Convention

Bylaws Proposals

Prepared for the 2024 LPTexas State Convention by the Bylaws Committee

Fellow Delegates:

The Bylaws Committee presents the following proposals for consideration. We hope that each delegate will carefully evaluate each one.

Most of these rule recommendations are based on issues encountered by LPTexas throughout the last two years. All delegates may not agree on the best path forward, but we believe these items to be the most worthy of consideration. Bylaws have to be dealt with not just every two years at conventions but every day by the party leadership at all levels. Changes can have a significant impact on how the party operates and can either enable or hinder operations. These experiences shape the recommendations before you and have been given careful consideration. A poorly written yet well-intended rule can cause as much hardship on maintaining the party as a bad rule.

Our bylaws are crucial in governing how the party functions, but please keep in mind that the bylaws are only as good as the people that follow them. This is important for each affiliate, county ex-comm, and SLEC member. No rule can be written that can make people follow them. Amending these bylaws is essential but selecting excellent and committed representatives of the party is even more vital. Writing clear and well-intentioned bylaws is necessary to enable our party representatives to do their job, making the party a success.

Even under ideal conditions we only get about 4 hours every 2 years to vote on such changes. We hope the convention body will consider each recommendation up or down so we can get through the list and conduct our business as efficiently as possible.

We hope you will take all these considerations into account when evaluating the merit of each change. Thank you for taking the time to be a member of this party and a delegate to this convention. We are proud to have worked together in our common goal to grow the LP, the only party fighting for all of your freedoms all of the time.

2024 Bylaws Committee

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****Immediate effect proposals marked with asterisk.**

Noncontroversial Bundle

These proposals are grouped together as a single proposal:

All committee members were given Veto power to reject any items, without question, from the bundle for any reason they want. The items made into the bundle are considered non-controversial enough that we believe they could pass together as a single proposal to allow us to go onto items one by one that may need more discussion.

1. Fix SLEC National Delegate Notice

V.d.10.iv. Selection by State Executive Committee.

- A. If national party rules should require election of delegates to a national convention at a time when it would not be possible for a state convention to do so, such delegates and alternates shall be chosen by an open meeting of the SLEC.
- B. ~~If reasonably possible, at least 60 days p~~Prior public notice of this meeting shall be given including publication in a state Party newsletter or other form of written notice.

Committee Reasoning

Phrases like “reasonably possible” do not belong in bylaws. They create confusion and are open to wide arrays of interpretation.

2. Notifications for SLEC removal

IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.

- A. If a Party officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.
- B. An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SLEC that requires a quorum and for which two (2) weeks notice was given.
- ~~C. Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.~~

IV.a.8.v. Notification of Removal.

- A. Whenever any member of SLEC is removed, the Secretary shall officially notify that member and the chair of each affiliated county they represent.

Committee Reasoning

The chair of each county should be notified of any changes in their representation to SLEC. This change increases transparency of state party operations.

3. Simplified Language Cleanup Pertaining to Initial SLEC Meeting

IV.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting

Within the same day of the final adjournment of the State Convention the SLEC shall convene a business meeting; this initial meeting shall be automatically considered properly noticed. ~~for the purposes of III.A.6.ii (B); this section shall constitute proper notice.~~

Committee Reasoning

This is a simple grammatical correction for purposes of clarity.

4. Voting Membership

III.e.2. Voting Membership.

- i. At any time an eligible person may become a Voting Member by affiliating with the Party and meeting the III.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility requirements..
- ii. On request of a person desiring to affiliate with the Party, a member of a County Executive committee for the county in which the person resides shall administer the oath of party affiliation. In unaffiliated counties a member of the SLEC, a person specially designated by the SLEC, the State Chair, or person otherwise allowed by Texas law shall affiliate the person making the request by administering the oath of party affiliation.
- iii. After administering the oath, at the person's request the ~~person~~ administrator shall stamp the Party's name on the person's voter registration certificate or issue the person an affiliation certificate containing:
 - A. the name of the person to whom the certificate is issued;
 - B. the name of the Party ("Libertarian Party of Texas");
 - C. the name and official position of the issuer;
 - D. the function at which the affiliation occurred, if applicable; and
 - E. the date of affiliation.

Committee Reasoning

We aren't required to issue a certificate of affiliation unless the person seeking to affiliate requests one. Additionally, we need to differentiate between the person seeking to affiliate and the administer of the oath because it currently reads as if the person stamping the voter card is the same as the owner of the voter card.

5. Convening of Committees

~~V.d.4.vi. Convening of committees:~~

~~All committees, except the Platform Committee, shall first convene officially no later than the first day immediately preceding the Convention to which they shall report, but such committees may meet informally at any time at their discretion.~~

Committee Reasoning

It is not a precedent that we should encode in bylaws that a committee wouldn't meet "officially" sooner than the day before the convention. There may have been a purpose behind this bylaw in the past, but it doesn't seem to serve a purpose anymore, especially given other bylaws relating to the activity of the committees of the convention.

6. County Governing Authority

IV.c. County Affiliates.

IV.c.1. County Governing Authority.

- i. There shall be in each affiliated county a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and such other officials of that county affiliate as the bylaws of that county affiliate may designate.
- ii. County bylaws shall establish the composition of the County Executive Committee and designate a procedure for filling its vacancies ~~on the County Executive Committee.~~
- iii. County Chairs are required to provide a copy of the county bylaws to the state Party Secretary upon any adoption, readoption, or alteration of said county bylaws. In the absence of county bylaws being on file, the SLEC has the authority to recognize a qualified individual as County Chair in the event of a dispute.
- iv. All County Executive Committee members must be Voting Members of the Party.

Committee Reasoning

When requiring a means of filling vacancies, it makes sense to first establish a committee. Additionally, sometimes we have counties who readopt their bylaws at convention, but don't include those with their convention documents which has more than once resulted in us not having a copy of their bylaws at all because they just relied on the person before them doing their job.

End Noncontroversial Bundle

7. Amending Voting Procedure for Roll Call Voting**

V.e.4. Voting Procedures.

- ii. Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method used shall be left to the discretion of the presiding officer, provided, however, that:
 - A. A division vote must be taken on the request of any qualified participant. Said participant need not have the floor to call for a division vote.
 - B. A ~~roll-call~~ counted vote must be taken when requested by one-fifth of the participants.
 - C. A roll call vote must be taken when ordered by a motion of the assembly.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

The current wording presents two major problems to any convention. At one time our conventions were small enough that a roll call vote may have made sense, but to get the roll from the credentials committee and read out every name, it would probably take up half of the report on one proposal. For this reason I have never seen it done in the previous conventions I have attended. However, this says nothing about a counted vote. One may even argue that the assembly has no right to a counted vote based on the current wording. Because of this if a discrepancy ever arose between the chair and assembly it may force drastic action such as forcing a roll call vote when a counted vote is all that was needed. This amendment also preserves the right to a roll call vote under the standard procedures listed in RONR.

8. Electronic Voting Removing Chair's Discretion (SLEC bylaws)

V. Electronic Voting.

- 1) The SLEC may request to vote on an issue by email, or online forums outside of a meeting if 10% of current members of the body request a vote by forum or email.
- 2) The chair shall **clearly** present the issue as a motion to be voted upon by forum or email within one week after the request to vote. ~~If this does not occur within one week after the request to vote the vote on this issue shall not be taken up unless another request to vote is started.~~
- 3) At least 48 hours shall be given after the motion is given before a final tally may be counted. If enough yea votes of all current members to require passage have not been submitted within 96 hours the motion shall be considered failed.
- 4) If the method of casting votes was hidden then all members along with the name of each member and his or her vote shall be shown along with the final result.

Committee Reasoning

This bylaw is self contradictory. Even if we wanted to preserve the right for the chair's veto we would need to change the language in 6 to "The chair may present" thereby giving the chair the option. As it stands now a duty is given to the chair as well as a power if the chair neglects the duties of their office. I was on the bylaws committee that first passed this proposal, authored by Arthur Thomas. I was also the first chair to use this procedure. When I started trying to use it I went to Arthur and mentioned that we screwed up, we accidentally

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gave the chair a veto over the committee. Arthur responded that was his intention. If I had realized that in committee I would have pushed against that even knowing it was me being given the veto. The chair should not have any veto over the committee except for those already provided for in RONR when a motion is out of order.

I have also struck the work clearly because it gives no additional meaning to this section. If you told me to present something and I did and then you told me to now clearly present it I would not understand that you meant me to do a different thing, only that you thought I inadequately did the first thing you asked. All presentations to a body of a motion whether spoken or written should be clear. If they are not they are improper and a member needs to raise a request for information to clarify it. I also know of no circumstance where a chair could be acting in good faith and also be intentionally presenting things unclearly. So for those reasons I think the language needs to be simplified as it is in other governing documents of our party.

9. Filling SLEC Vacancies

IV.a.9. Filling Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Should a vacancy exist in a District Representative seat the seat may be filled. The following procedure shall be used when filling a vacancy.

- i. For the purposes of this section, an “Eligible County” is an affiliated county that is wholly or partially within the senate district and which has a procedure for determining how that county’s ballot is cast in their bylaws on file with the Party.
- ii. ~~Voting Members~~ A person shall be eligible to be ~~nominated~~ elected only after they have met all qualification requirements set forth in ~~IV.a.3 (Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members)~~ these Bylaws.
- iii. For a district that is either entirely contained within one county, or where only one county is affiliated, the nomination and vote may happen at the same meeting provided proper notice of the meeting is given according to that county’s bylaws.
- iv. For a district that wholly or partially contains more than one affiliated county, a majority of CEC members in an Eligible County may nominate one Voting Member from their own county for each available position in that district and send nominations to the state chair.
- v. The State Chair shall notify all Eligible Counties and the SLEC of the nomination, and provide the qualification documentation of the nominee and any subsequent nominees to all Eligible Counties. ~~The State Chair shall notify and communicate relevant qualification documentation to all Eligible Counties and to the SLEC for the nominations.~~
- vi. Eligible Counties have thirty (30) days ~~Following the initial nomination notification from the State Chair, all Eligible Counties have thirty (30) days~~ to submit additional nominations. ~~which shall be shared with all Eligible Counties and the SLEC as in subsection (iv).~~
- vii. Voting begins thirty (30) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair and continues for forty-five (45) days. Each Eligible County may submit one ballot to the Party indicating a vote for or against each nominee in accordance with that county’s bylaws. ~~Each eligible county may cast a ballot indicating a for or against vote for each of the nominated candidates starting thirty (30) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair and continuing to forty five (45) days after the initial nomination~~

~~notification from the State Chair. Any votes not received after that time will be considered as against the candidate(s).~~

~~viii. The procedure for determining how each Eligible County's ballot is cast shall be in accordance with that county's bylaws that are on file with the Party.~~

ix. ~~Each cast b~~Ballots shall be submitted to the State Secretary, or their designees.

x. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all eligible counties that cast a ballot. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first position available, and any additional positions shall be filled according to the next highest majority number of votes received.

10. Establishing Stability and Transparency in the Bylaws Amendment Process

V.d.4.i. Committees Described.

B. A Bylaws Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent bylaws of the Party and to the Bylaws of the SLEC;

V.d.5. Order of Business.

viii. The Bylaws Committee Report;

VI.b. Permanent Amendments.

These ~~Rules~~ Bylaws may be permanently amended, ~~altered or repealed~~ only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a State Convention, provided further that this Section VI itself may only be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) vote.

Committee Reasoning

As a matter of internal governance and consistent with other highly-evergreen sections of the Bylaws, this raises the threshold for changing the Bylaws amendment process itself to be a greater hurdle than other amendments permitted under that process.

11. Procedures for Platform Committee Reports**

V.d.4.viii. Procedures for Platform Committee Reports.

- A. The Platform Committee must vote on each specific proposed plank or amendment separately.
- B. In the case of the Platform Committee, the committee Chair shall report the committee's recommendations to the floor on a plank by plank basis, and each shall be debated and voted upon separately in the following order:
 - 1. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote in committee.
 - 2. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote, less abstentions, in committee.

3. Those recommendations receiving a favorable vote in committee, regarding which there is not a minority report.
 4. Those recommendations receiving a favorable vote in committee, regarding which there is a minority report.
- C. Each Platform Committee recommendation shall be considered in the following manner:
1. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person, shall have up to two minutes to give the committee's thinking in making the recommendation and shall inform the convention if any minority reports exist.;
 2. The recommendation shall then be moved by the committee for an up or down vote from the convention without debate or amendment.
 3. If the motion for the recommendation passes as presented then the next item of business is taken up. If the motion fails it will automatically be brought back up for reconsideration.
 4. The Chair of the Convention shall then open the floor to discussion of the ~~recommendations~~motion for up to fifteen minutes.;
 5. During this time amendments may be proposed from the floor, one at a time, and the proposed amendments shall be voted on before voting on the ~~recommendation~~main motion, as amended.
 6. In the case of a Platform Committee recommendation for which there is a minority report, after the majority position has been presented and voted down the minority report shall have priority of consideration as a proposed amendment to the majority report and a spokesperson for the minority shall have up to two minutes to present his or her position before the fifteen minute discussion period begins.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

A lot of time is wasted during platform on debating planks that clearly have a supermajority of support this would allow us to quickly dispose of those items while still balancing a significant minority's right to debate and amend the item if such a minority exists.

12. Clarify absence language

IV.a.8. Removal of Committee Members

IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.

- A. If a Party officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.
- B. An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SLEC that requires a quorum and for which two (2) weeks notice was given.
- C. Attendance shall be counted at any meeting of the SLEC that requires quorum.
- D. Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

This bylaw has been interpreted differently over the years as to whether attendance at a meeting without 2 weeks notice counts to prevent removal from the body. This change seeks to give clarity and continuity from one administration to another.

13. Validity of Conventions

V.a. Precinct Conventions.

1. The County Executive Committee shall set the place and time on the designated date for convening the precinct conventions, but no Precinct Convention, if held on a Monday through Friday, may convene prior to 7pm in a county with a population over 500,000, or 6pm in a county with a population at or fewer than 500,000.
2. To be eligible to participate in a precinct convention, a person must be a registered voter of the precinct, and the person must also be a Voting Member of the Party.
3. Each Precinct Convention shall automatically elect all participants thereof to be delegates to the County convention and shall elect no alternates. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the Precinct Convention to be elected a delegate to the County Convention.
4. Attendees for the convention may be pre-registered for the convention by electronic or paper registration.
5. The Precinct Convention Chair may electronically scan and electronically submit convention documents to the County Chair and State Chair.
6. The CEC shall ensure that~~A Precinct Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:~~
 - i. ~~it a Precinct Convention~~ meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.062 through 181.067;
 - ii. a member of the CEC notifies the State Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the precinct convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - iii. a member of the CEC ~~the precinct convention chair or their designee~~ delivers a signed list of precinct convention participants to the County Chair and State Chair no later than the third (3rd) day after the date of the precinct convention.

V.b. County Conventions.

V.b.1. County Conventions General

- i. A County Convention will be held on the designated date and time in accordance with these bylaws.
- ii. Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall notify each county chair of any candidates who have filed with the State Chair that are required to be nominated at a County Convention.

- iii. All candidates for the Party’s nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.
- iv. The County Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year, and who are Voting Members.
- v. Unless specifically addressed by the County bylaws, all delegates may vote for nomination of candidates for districts that are entirely contained within the county and for which an application for nomination was filed with the State Chair or with the County Chair as required by the Election Code.
- vi. The CECA County Convention shall ensure that ~~only be recognized as valid if:~~
 - A. a County Convention ~~it~~ meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.063 and Sec. 181.064 by posting public notice of the hour and place of the precinct and county conventions;
 - B. a member of the CEC notifies the state Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the county convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - C. a member of the CEC is able to produce valid evidence of proper notice of precinct and county conventions upon request by either the state Party officers or by the Credentials committee.

Committee Reasoning

These changes maintain the requirement for counties to send in their precinct and county convention records, but will help to ensure that entire delegations aren’t disqualified from participating in conventions by missing these deadlines. While it would be nice for the party to be organized on this level, it is not yet and that was demonstrated leading up to these 2024 precinct conventions when over half of our delegations didn’t turn in their documentation on time. We need to do better, but we don’t need to hamstring ourselves in the meantime.

14. Voting Procedures**

V.e.7.vi. Right to Not Elect Candidates.

- A. Qualified participants shall have the right to cast a vote against ~~each~~ candidates seeking Party or public office, and to not elect any person for a Party or public office.
- B. Votes cast against a candidate or for “None of the Above” in voting for a Party or public office shall be considered valid and properly recorded.
- C. When using approval voting, a ballot shall be considered valid when more than one option is selected including when “None of the Above” and other options are selected.

V.e.8. Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office.

V.e.8.i. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.

- A. The method for voting by ballot shall be Approval Voting.

- B. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees and “None of the Above”. ~~Each qualified participant shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.~~
- ~~C. Total votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.~~
- ~~D. No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.~~
- ~~E. The eligible nominee receiving the plurality of “for” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes, the nominee with the fewest “against” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes and “against” votes then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.~~
- F. In the event that no nominee receives a majority of votes from the ballots cast, all nominees who received fewer votes than “None of the Above”, or if no nominee receives fewer votes than “None of the Above” then the nominee receiving the fewest votes, shall be dropped from the ballot and a new round of voting will take place until one nominee receives votes from a majority of ballots cast or no candidate receives more votes than “None of the Above”.
- G. Order of nominations. In voting on the nomination of candidates for Public Office, the offices shall be considered in the reverse of the order in which they appear on the general election ballot.
- H. The qualified participants of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates for Public or Party Offices as long as the ~~ability to vote “against” each nominee is included~~ Right to Not Elect Candidates is upheld.

V.e.8.ii. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.

- A. The method for voting by multi seat ballot shall be Approval Voting.
- B. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees and “None of the Above”. ~~Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.~~
- ~~C. All votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.~~
- ~~D. No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.~~
- ~~E. All nominees that obtain more “for” votes than “against” votes are eligible nominees. Eligible nominees will be ranked in order of highest “for” count to lowest “for” count. In the case of a tie for votes, the higher preference shall be the eligible nominee with less “against” votes. If a tie occurs when eligible nominees have the same “for” and “against” votes, then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.~~
- F. A nominee is eligible when they have received a majority of votes from ballots cast and more votes than “None of the Above”.
- G. Eligible nominees will be seated in ranked order until all seats are filled or until there are no longer eligible nominees.
- H. If all positions are not filled, the body may, by majority vote, open nominations to fill more positions, but no nominees who received fewer votes than “None of the Above” shall be eligible to be nominated for that office again until the close of the convention.

- I. The delegates of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates as long as the ability to vote against each nominee is included.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

The changes to this procedure would simplify our voting process for both single- and multi-seat balloting while ensuring that the will of the body is thoroughly represented and everyone is on the same page going into balloting.

15. Reorganize SLEC**

IV.a.1. Composition.

The SLEC of the Party shall be composed of:

- i. A Chair;
- ii. A Vice Chair;
- iii. A Secretary;
- iv. A Treasurer;
- v. District Representatives from State Senatorial Districts;
- vi. At-large Representatives
- vii. Member(s) of the National Committee representing Texas *ex officio* with voice but no vote.

IV.a.5. Method of Selection.

- i. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, and up to five (5) At-Large Representatives shall be elected by majority vote of all the qualified participants at each State Convention.
- ii. The qualified participants present at each State Convention from each State Senatorial District shall meet and elect in district caucuses up to ~~two~~ one representatives from that State Senatorial District.

IV.a.9. Filling Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, ~~or~~ Treasurer, or At-large representative, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

Many attempts have been made to restructure SLEC, but it has stayed as it is for two reasons. First, it keeps us nearly in line with what Texas Election Code requires of primary parties and people worry it would be too difficult to switch back to this structure if we either choose to or are forced to become a primary party. Second, because while the vast majority of the party is unhappy with the size and structure of SLEC, nobody has been able to agree on how to change it.

Becoming a primary party isn't even an option until 2026, unless the legislature makes some big changes in 2025 that they haven't been friendly to in the past, so now is the best time to try something new. The reason this proposal is the best proposal that's been put forward yet is that it shrinks the overall size of SLEC while keeping a structure similar to the primary parties so that when we get there it's easy to make that change, and it implements at-large members which addresses concerns that decreasing the size proportionally disproportionately impacts our more densely populated parts of the state.

16. Eliminate Requirement for Secret Ballot**

V.e.4. Voting Procedures.

- i Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in these Rules, the method of voting at all Conventions, and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party may be:
 - (a) Voice vote;
 - (b) Show of hands;
 - (c) Standing division of the house;
 - (d) Written secret ballot; or
 - (e) Roll call vote.
- ii Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method used shall be left to the discretion of the presiding officer, provided, however, that:
 - (a) A division vote must be taken on the request of any qualified participant. Said participant need not have the floor to call for a division vote.
 - (b) A roll call vote must be taken when requested by one-fifth of the participants.
- iii All votes taken shall be counted by the presiding officer and secretary or their designees.
- iv Elections must be held by secret ballot when there is a contested race for any Party office or offices (including delegate and alternate) or for the Party nomination for any public office (including Presidential Elector candidates). This requirement may be suspended by a 2/3rds vote.
- v Proxy voting or voting by proxies is prohibited in all conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party.
- vi The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates shall not be permitted at any level of the Convention process.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

Implementing this change maintains the secret ballot as the standard while allowing a super-majority of the convention body the freedom to suspend its use if the need arises.

17. Clarify and Articulate Officer Responsibilities in Greater Detail

IV.a.6.i. Duties of the Chair

i. The duties of the Chair shall be as follows: ~~the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party, and may perform the duties of any other Party officer whenever such an officer is unable to do so:~~

- A. Serve as the presiding officer of the Party.
- B. Serve as the Temporary Chair of the State Convention.
- C. Liaise with the Party's representatives on the Libertarian National Committee.
- D. Oversee the overall strategic and financial direction of the Party.
- E. Oversee the general supervision of all Party staff.
- F. Serve as a non-voting Ex Officio member of all committees of the State Convention and SLEC, unless otherwise stated in the motion forming a committee, and
- G. Exercise the role and responsibilities of any other elected officer of the Party in the event that their position is vacant.

IV.a.6.ii Duties of the Vice Chair

ii. The duties of the Vice Chair shall be as follows: ~~perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the Chair:~~

- A. Perform the duties of the Chair whenever the Chair is unavailable or unable to do so, or in the interim should the office of the Chair become vacant.
- B. At the Chair's request, assist the Chair in the performance of any of their duties.
- C. Serve as a non-voting Ex Officio member of all committees of the State Convention and SLEC, unless otherwise stated in the motion forming a committee, and
- D. Serve as the SLEC representative of members in unrepresented senatorial districts.

IV.a.6.iii Duties of the Secretary

iii. The duties of the Secretary shall be as follows:

- A. Serve as record keeper for the party by:
 - a. Keeping minutes of all Party business meetings.
 - b. Keeping records of all SLEC votes.
 - c. Maintaining updated copies of all governing documents of the Party.
 - d. Maintaining a record of a sunset date for each Platform plank.
 - e. Keeping a roster of all members of:
 - i. The SLEC.
 - ii. County Chairs of Affiliated Counties, and
 - iii. Candidates and nominees for public office
- B. Facilitate balloting as prescribed by these Bylaws.
- C. Disseminate any notices as required by law, these Bylaws, or at the direction of the SLEC.
- D. Serve as Temporary Secretary of the State Convention, and
- E. Serve as a non-voting Ex Officio member of the Credentials Committee.

~~A. keep such minutes and records as are necessary for the operations of the Party;~~

~~B. manage the balloting process of the SLEC;~~

~~C. give all notices required by these bylaws;~~

~~D. maintain and certify the official copies of the bylaws and Platform;~~

~~E. maintain a roster of names, addresses, emails, other electronic communication identifiers, and telephone numbers of members of:~~

~~1. the SLEC;~~

~~2. County Chairs of Affiliated Counties;~~

~~3. candidates for the Party's nomination for public office;~~

~~F. furnish the minutes and/or transcripts of the Party to all members of the SLEC upon request;~~

~~G. maintain a record of a sunset date for each platform plank;~~

IV.a.6.iv Duties of the Treasurer

iv. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

- A. Keep accurate records of the Party's financial activity.
- B. Ensure compliance with all relevant laws with regard to financial reporting, and
- C. Report on the financial condition of the Party to the SLEC, including issuing at least quarterly financial statements.

- ~~A. maintain the Party bank accounts and other financial assets;~~
- ~~B. ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party;~~
- ~~C. issue financial statements to the SLEC at least quarterly; and~~
- ~~D. ensure that party funds are disbursed only according to these bylaws, state, and federal law.~~

Committee Reasoning

One of the most important elements of governing documents is the articulation of roles and responsibilities expected of chartered officers and other representatives elected thereunder. In this matter, the current language is severely lacking.

This proposal clearly articulates the responsibilities of the four elected officers in a manner consistent with best practices for political party leadership. This serves a dual purpose of providing clear guidelines for accountability by which these officers may be evaluated by the SLEC, delegates, or membership, while also protecting those same officers from being held to unreasonable expectations or deliverables. In short, it's a job description.

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary are additionally named ex officio non-voting members of those party committees where their input is likely to be particularly important. Because the officers are not enfranchised on those committees, the potential for abuse of power is minimal.

The proposal further gives additional responsibility to the Vice Chair by vesting them with the role of representation on the SLEC for members in unrepresented Senate districts. This gives the Vice Chair more to do independently beyond being a proxy for the Chair, and creates an important bridge to those members with no representation on SLEC.

18. Revise initial SLEC meeting

Bylaws

IV.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting

No sooner than 30 days but no later than 90 days after ~~Within the same day of~~ the final adjournment of the State Convention the SLEC shall convene a business meeting, ~~and for the purposes of III.A.6.ii (B), this section shall constitute proper notice.~~

The SLEC in the Bylaws of SLEC shall maintain a bylaw governing the agenda of the first meeting, ~~and shall not adjourn sine die without completing all items outlined in that agenda.~~

Bylaws of SLEC

G. The agenda of the initial meeting of the SLEC after the State Convention shall be:

1. Roll call
 2. Presentation of LPTexas' Governing Documents ~~state and SLEC bylaws with changes noted~~
 - ~~3. Presentation and review of state policies~~
 4. Introduction to ~~SLEC membership,~~ LPTexas' communication tools and systems
 5. Introduction of ~~any established staff and~~ staff structure and its members
 6. Completion of documents as required by ~~Oath and signing agreements in accordance with III.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements~~ these Bylaws.
 7. Reviewing the SLEC mission statement
 8. Budget and expenditure authorizations, if needed
 9. ~~New business; to consider new business each item requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote~~
- ~~H. The initial meeting shall not adjourn sine die without completing all items outlined in the agenda.~~

Committee Reasoning

These changes give the functionaries of the convention time to implement the changes made at convention before the first meeting of SLEC. Historically, we only had a meeting immediately after convention because the budget needed to be reauthorized to allow the party to continue to function. That issue was resolved years ago and having the meeting immediately after convention is simply a holdover from that.

As for the changes to the agenda for the first meeting, while the intention was good when this bylaw was adopted, the wording made it nearly impossible for the body to complete the items as described and being unable to adjourn “sine die” without completing those items lead to a paradox of having to be in violation of our bylaws on day one.

Lastly, all of these changes are intended to make these sections more timeless so that when we reintegrate the SLEC bylaws back in the LPTexas Bylaws, or we change or get rid of the section on swearing in and agreements, or we add a whole new document entirely, we don't have to come back and change these sections to reflect those changes as they will already do so.

19. Protecting Affiliates by Clarifying the Conditions Under Which a County May be Disaffiliated

IV.c.5. County Disaffiliation.

The Party may only disaffiliate a County Affiliate for the following reasons:

- i. Failure to hold a county convention as stipulated elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- ii. If the County Affiliate is inactive. Inactivity may be construed as any of the following:
 - a. a repeated, ongoing, and documented pattern of lack of response to the Party by County Affiliate leadership.
 - b. a reasonable belief by the Party that the County Affiliate will be unable to hold its next County Convention, or

- c. a vacancy in the office of County Chair (which shall not be considered vacant if there is an active temporary or interim chair) that has persisted for more than 60 consecutive calendar days.

iii. If the County Affiliate openly endorses a candidate from any other political party or who is running as an independent in a partisan race, even in a race in which there is no Libertarian candidate. Open endorsement means:

- a. a public proclamation made by a resolution of the County Executive Committee, County Convention, or County Affiliate's voting membership that a non-Libertarian candidate is the officially endorsed or preferred candidate of the County Affiliate.
- b. giving financial support, including contributing money or its equivalent such as equipment loans, services or supplies,
- c. willingly and knowingly allowing the county's name to be used in any kind of letter, public endorsement, news release, or advertisement, or
- d. actively soliciting votes by making a public appearance or a door-to-door solicitation of votes

No motion to disaffiliate shall be brought within 90 days of the date of the precinct conventions.

Committee Reasoning

As the party belongs to the members, it's vital to preserve a bottom-up grassroots structure. Members engage with the party locally first and foremost, with their counties being the gateway to the state party and ultimately to national. To oust an affiliate has significant ramifications not only for the County Executive Committee, but also for every individual member of that county. However, current language is so broad that it arguably permits county disaffiliation for virtually any reason, which flies in the face of the bottom-up principle.

This proposal clearly articulates the situations in which a county may be disaffiliated. While imperfect, the language is much more precise than the nearly-unlimited reasons which are arguably permitted under current verbiage. In short, counties may be disaffiliated solely for situations in which they cease to function in their very purpose as a county Libertarian affiliate in the State of Texas, either legally or missionally.

There is also a second advantage to the proposal: it provides affirmative guidance to SLEC on situations when disaffiliation should be on the table. Though even in those instances, an affirmative move for disaffiliation is optional rather than required. In short, the discretion of SLEC is preserved as it pertains to pursuing (or not pursuing) a permissible disaffiliation, while what constitutes 'permissible' is now more clearly defined to protect the bottom-up nature of the party.

20. Vice Chair Duties

IV.a.6. Duties.

- i. The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party, and may perform the duties of any other Party officer whenever such an officer is unable to do so.
- ii. The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the Chair. The Vice Chair shall be considered to represent any and all Senatorial districts that do not have a District Representative.

Committee Reasoning

While it has become increasingly uncommon for a Senate District to be unrepresented on SLEC, it does still happen, and given then duties as they currently exist for the Vice Chair and the duties assigned to Vice Chairs by other similar organizations, it seems the best option for ensuring those LPTexas members in unrepresented districts have a voice is to assign their representation to the Vice Chair.

21. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members**

IV.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members

vii. At time of election shall be a Funding Member as defined in LPTexas Governing Documents.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

It is the duty of SLEC members to ask members of the party to donate to the party. By being able to show 100 percent of LPTexas leadership have contributed, it demonstrates loyalty and commitment to the mission of LPTexas and helps members to be motivated to show an equal level of commitment.

22. Electronic Voting (SLEC bylaws)

V. Electronic Voting.

- 5) The SLEC may request to vote on an issue by online balloting, email, or online forums outside of a meeting if one-third ~~10%~~ (1/3) of current members of the body request a vote by forum or email.
- 6) The chair shall clearly present the issue as a motion to be voted upon ~~by forum or email~~. If this does not occur within one week after the request to vote the vote on this issue shall not be taken up unless another request to vote is started.
- 7) At least forty eight (48) hours shall be given after the motion is given before a final tally may be counted. If enough yea votes of all current members to require passage have not been submitted within ninety six (96) hours the motion shall be considered failed.
- 8) If the method of casting votes was hidden then all members along with the name of each member and his or her vote shall be shown along with the final result.

Committee Reasoning

This changes the threshold from 10% to 1/3rd so that the triggering threshold isn't so low that a vote gets called before many members have even had a chance to be aware a vote is being requested. Someone may have input that discourages others from joining a call to vote and a very low threshold works against such time to bring up concerns before a vote starts.

This also makes the language a little more generic so as to not limit it to only forum or email. OpaVote for instance could be clearly used as an “electronic vote”.

23. Late attendance does not count for absence

IV.a.8. Removal of Committee Members

IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.

- E. If a Party officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant. The SLEC by majority vote may reinstate the member during the meeting in which the member was removed if the member arrives before the adjournment of that meeting.
- F. An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SLEC that requires a quorum and for which two (2) weeks notice was given.
- G. Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

Committee Reasoning

Our intent here is to allow the body to take into consideration that life happens. Since filling SLEC vacancies is no longer conducted by SLEC, we have seen several instances in which a person is late to the meeting after having been absent from the previous meeting and is therefore removed from the body and the only recourse to have them reinstated is to initiate an entire district convention to vote them back on. If we make this change, it would allow SLEC the discretion to determine whether the tardiness was justified and should allow the person to continue to serve. Support for this motion is reflected by the fact that a first absence is not counted at the call to order meaning a person can be late to a meeting once with no repercussion.

24. Institute Additional Structure and Safeguards Around the Judicial Committee**

IV.b Judicial Committee

IV.b.1. Composition and Quorum

The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven (7) Party members elected at each regular state convention occurring in a non-gubernatorial election year. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select and may replace the chair of the Judicial Committee from among themselves by 2/3rds vote. Any five (5) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum, provided that if a member has recused themselves or is otherwise disqualified from hearing a particular case, the quorum threshold shall be lowered accordingly by the same proportion. The members of the Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention, or immediately upon appointment if appointed outside of a convention.

IV.b.2. Qualifications

In order to qualify to be a member of the Judicial Committee, a person must meet the following:

- i. Is not currently, nor have been within the prior twenty-four (24) months, a paid staff member, contractor, or vendor of the Party, including directly or as an owner, partner, employee, or sub-contractor of any entity.
- ii. ~~i. Is not currently, not~~ nor have been within the prior twelve (12) months, a member of the SLEC (regardless of voting status) or an unpaid staff department head. ~~for the previous one (1) year.~~
- iii. ~~iii. Is not currently unpaid Party staff, or a member of any other committee of the Party, the state convention, or the SLEC.~~
- iii. ~~Is not currently a member of any committee of the convention of LPTexas.~~
- iv. ~~Is not currently serving as volunteer staff of LPTexas.~~
- iv. Have been a Voting Member for at least four (4) consecutive years at the time of their election or appointment.

IV.b.3. Vacancies and Removals

The SLEC and Judicial Committee members shall ~~vote to~~ appoint new members if vacancies occur, ~~and such~~ Appointees may shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-gubernatorial convention, unless they resign or are removed. ~~Such a~~ Appointments must obtain require a two-thirds (2/3) ~~of all those~~ eligible to vote of both the SLEC and the remaining members of the Judicial Committee.

Members of the Judicial Committee may also be removed from office at any time by both a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the SLEC and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Judicial Committee itself. Either body may initiate the removal process by taking their own vote for approval.

IV.b.4. Jurisdiction and Bylaws Construction in Cases:

~~The Judicial Committee review of a Party action shall be limited to the consistency of that action against the Bylaws and other governing documents of the Party.~~

The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is exclusively limited to reviewing the actions of the Party, a County Affiliate, or a representative thereof in consideration of only those the following matters: expressly identified as follows:

- i. Censuring, expelling, or otherwise limiting the rights of participation in the Party of a Voting Member
- ii. Disqualification or Rremoval of incumbents, nominees, or prospective candidates for a member of or the SLEC
- iii. ~~Qualification of State Executive Committee Members (III.a.3.)~~ Disqualification or removal of incumbents, nominees, or prospective candidates for County Affiliate leadership positions, if there is an alleged violation of the Party Bylaws and the disqualification or removal would be considered invalid as a result
- iv. ~~Failure to hold a convention (III.b.4.)~~ Disaffiliation of a County Affiliate
- v. ~~County governance (III.b.1.)~~ County Affiliate's bylaws which are found to be in conflict with the Party Bylaws.
- vi. The procedural validity of any Party election or filling of vacancies contemplated or required under these bylaws.

The review of any cases before the Judicial Committee shall solely pertain to the consistency of the parties' actions with these Bylaws or, as applicable, the SLEC Bylaws. The Judicial Committee shall strictly construe the language or provisions in question according to what is actually written as it would be understood by a reasonable layperson with relevant knowledge of the Party.

Rulings of the Judicial Committee shall be exclusively limited to voiding, reversing, or remanding an action of a party to the case. The Judicial Committee may not affirmatively compel any strategic, political, candidate, policy, operational, marketing, communications, or other such subjective decisions of the Party or any party to the case. The Judicial Committee shall also have no power to void or amend these Party Bylaws or the SLEC Bylaws, any portion thereof, or any proposed amendments thereto, unless it violates a law or bylaw of higher precedent.

Any rulings of the Judicial Committee may be voided, reversed, or remanded by a 2/3rds vote of a state convention, provided that if such a motion would introduce any kind of legal ambiguity (such as, but not limited to: the status of officeholders, stewardship of Party assets, recognition of one County Affiliate as the rightful affiliate over another, or any other similar matters), the motion must clearly stipulate how that matter is to be resolved.

IV.b.5. Organization and Process

The Judicial Committee ~~shall elect a~~ Chair, ~~who~~ shall be responsible for receiving ~~receive~~ all appeals and petitions brought before the committee, communicating all relevant knowledge and documentation of such appeals and petitions to the other members in a timely manner, and scheduling hearings accordingly. ~~and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the Judicial Committee. When a hearing is requested, the Chair shall decide to accept or reject the appeal or petition.~~ The Judicial Committee shall hear a case either on the order of the Chair or the written request of one-third (1/3) of the committee members. ~~If the Chair accepts the appeal or petition, the Chair shall set a hearing date within ten (10) days of receiving the request.~~ The committee shall respond to all appeals and petitions within thirty (30) days of receipt and the Chair shall notify the Party Chair, Party Secretary, and the parties to the case whether or not the committee agrees to hear the case. ~~If the appeal or petition is rejected, the Chair shall notify the requestor and the SLEC within ten (10) days of receiving the request.~~ If the ~~Chair~~ committee has not accepted or rejected the appeal or petition within ~~ten (10)~~ thirty (30) days of receipt ~~receiving the appeal~~, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter and the case will be automatically deemed rejected at hand.

The Judicial Committee shall provide at least ten (10) days notice to each of the parties ~~to a~~ prior to a hearing, unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Committee and all parties to the case ~~the participants. The Judicial Committee shall hold a h~~ Hearings shall be held within thirty (30) days of the committee's decision to hear the case. ~~receiving a request, unless otherwise specified.~~ All hearings shall be held virtually unless both the committee and all parties to the case agree otherwise. All parties to the case ~~a hearing shall~~ have the right to present ~~their case~~ before the Judicial Committee with an equal time allotment.

The Judicial Committee shall provide a written ruling within ~~seven (7)~~ fourteen (14) days of the conclusion of the hearing to all parties, the Party Chair, participants and the Party Secretary (who shall communicate the ruling in its entirety to the SLEC). The Judicial Committee Chair shall provide the minutes of all Judicial Committee hearings proceedings to the Party Secretary, who shall make them available to all members ~~shall be reported to the SLEC at the next normal meeting~~ of the SLEC by no later than the next regular business meeting of the SLEC. In the event that the Judicial Committee fails to issue a written ruling within the timeframe required, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the case and it shall be deemed closed matter at hand.

The rulings of the Judicial Committee shall be considered final with no higher body with which to appeal within the Party.

IV.b.6 Recusals and Mandatory Disqualifications

Members of the Judicial Committee shall be disqualified from hearing any case coming before the Judicial Committee in which:

- i. Their own County Affiliate is a party
- ii. If a 2/3rds vote of the remaining members of the committee believe there is a conflict of interest and the member refuses to recuse themselves

Any disqualified committee members shall be removed from quorum consideration for that case.

****The bylaws committee recommends this go into immediate effect.**

Committee Reasoning

This will be the first year the state party elects a Judicial Committee, and extensive controversy abounds as to whether or not such a body should even exist. Wherever one falls on that matter, the fact is that the committee will exist at the conclusion of the 2024 convention. The only question that remains is, to what extent will its powers be limited or left unrestrained?

This proposal is intended to more clearly limit the Judicial Committee's authority to cases where it may be expressly useful for checks and balances (i.e., as the final guardian of the Bylaws and members' rights), while also removing potential conflicts of interest, creating reasonable expected timelines for committee work, and keeping subjective strategic and policy decisions in the hands of the elected officers, members of SLEC, and staff.

If a Judicial Committee is to exist — and barring the improbable inability to elect any members at the convention, it will exist — its purpose should be strictly limited to functioning as a sort of impartial penultimate court of appeal (still able to be overruled by a convention) for enforcement of the bylaws and procedure, and it should be barred from second-guessing subjective decisions made by the party's elected officers and representatives. This proposal moves the Judicial Committee firmly in that direction.

****This motion shall take effect immediately upon adoption at this convention.**

25. Judicial Committee Vacancies

IV.b.3. Vacancies

The SLEC ~~and Judicial Committee~~ members shall vote to appoint new members if vacancies occur, and such appointees may serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-gubernatorial convention. Such appointments must obtain two-thirds (2/3) of all those eligible to vote.

Committee Reasoning

As the apolitical arm of the party, the Judicial Committee should not then be entered into what is inevitably the political process of filling vacancies on the committee. This practice is already established by the fact the SLEC isn't authorized to fill its own vacancies.

26. National Delegation Authority

V.d.10.v. Finality of Delegate Selection.

~~Neither the delegation nor the delegation chair shall have the power to add or remove delegates or alternates.~~

The delegation may remove a delegate or alternate by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all the state delegates and alternates to the National Convention registered as attending, but shall have no authority to add delegates or alternates.

Committee Reasoning

Nearly every body has some ability to manage its own membership. It has been a long standing practice that once delegates and alternates to the National Convention are selected, no changes are made. However, it is our belief that there needs to be some mechanism for removing a delegate in the case that they are a disruption to the convention and other means of resolving their behavior have proven ineffective, but we believe the threshold should be high enough that the mechanism isn't prone to abuse, hence setting it at three-fourths (3/4) of all Texas delegates and alternates.

27. Strike Overbroad Language on SLEC Duties that Dilutes Proper Division of Labor

~~vi. All members of the SLEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these bylaws, or assigned by the Chair or the SLEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal and state law, or by action of the SLEC or by these rules. All members shall maintain a working knowledge of the parties governing documents.~~All members of the SLEC shall have the authority and duties implied by such title and expressed or implied by these Bylaws, prescribed to their office by federal and/or state law, and assigned by the SLEC, and shall perform those duties to the best of their ability. All members of the SLEC shall maintain knowledge of the Party's governing documents, its chosen parliamentary authority, and applicable election code as is necessary to fulfill the duties to which they are assigned.

Committee Reasoning

This change tidies up the language making the role of a SLEC member and making the language more timeless as a whole.

It removes the ability of the Chair to assign duties to SLEC members while retaining the ability for SLEC to assign duties to itself since any duty successfully assigned by the Chair is either passively or actively approved by the body.

28. Nominations Committee

V.d.4. Committees of the Convention.

V.d.4.i. Committees Described

C. A Credentials Committee, which shall establish the temporary roll of the convention, report to the convention the list of County Affiliates that delivered county convention records and recommendations to establish the permanent roll of the convention, and continually update the roll for any changes to qualified participants throughout the convention;

D. A Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members of SLEC and four (4) non-members of SLEC. SLEC members of the committee must all represent different districts. Non-SLEC members of the committee must all reside in different counties. The committee shall recruit, vet, and develop candidates for any public office which is nominated by the Party at a state convention. It shall independently report to the state convention its recommendations on said candidates. Notwithstanding, the review by or approval of the committee shall not be required for any candidate to be either nominated or elected.

~~E.~~ E. Any other committees which the SLEC may deem it proper to establish.

V.d.5. Order of Business.

At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:

viii. The Bylaws Committee Report;

ix. The Nominating Committee Report

~~ix.~~ Nomination of candidates for public office;

Committee Reasoning

Nominating Committees are controversial, though the greatest criticism thereof pertains to situations where they create self-sustaining bureaucracies, i.e., on boards of directors where the committee's approval is required in order to be nominated for a board or leadership position. That criticism does not apply in this case.

Candidates are the principal marketing tool of political parties. For better or worse, the vast majority of the electorate forms its opinions and perceptions of a party and its underlying messaging based on what it sees (or doesn't) of candidates. Therefore, having a vetted pipeline of credible, prepared candidates is one of the most important elements of party messaging and long-term success. Avoiding last-minute drop-outs and race-switching is also vital for strategic planning. We need quality candidates coming through the pipeline clearly knowing their goal and having a credible plan to achieve it; this committee will help to accomplish that for statewide races.

It's important to note that this committee holds authority solely by influence, not mandate. The committee has no power whatsoever to dictate who may or may not be nominated, so the potential for abuse of power is minimal. Further, to the extent that subjective analyses on candidate qualifications and campaign readiness are to be made, it's safer and more transparent to vest that role in a diverse committee than in the hands of staff (who are better suited for operational assistance and campaign support).

29. Protecting Member's Rights of Participation

III.e.8. ~~Nondiscrimination~~ Protection of Member's Rights. No eligible person shall be denied or restricted his or her rights of Membership and participation within the Party or its affiliates.

Committee Reasoning

The primary way that a member interacts with the state party, and ultimately national, is through the gateway of their county affiliate. For example, it is essentially not possible (in practice, if not also by rule) to run for a representative role on SLEC, or become a state or national delegate, apart from ones' county affiliate. In preservation of that bottom-up principle, this proposal clarifies that just as the state party may not infringe on a member's rights, neither may a county affiliate which serves as the very avenue through which a member accesses the state. Enforcement of this provision would then be left to the various mechanisms of the state party found elsewhere in the Bylaws.

30. Voting Membership Eligibility

III.e.1. Voting Membership Eligibility.

A person is eligible to become a Voting Member of the Party if the person:

- i. is a qualified Texas voter; and
- ~~ii. signs a statement of general agreement with the Party's Statement of Principles;~~
- ~~iii. signs the Libertarian Pledge: "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."; and~~
- iv. is not:
 - A. affiliated with any other political party;
 - B. seeking nomination for public or party office in or by any other political party, or;
 - C. a candidate for election to public office by any other political party.

Committee Reasoning

Since the addition of these requirements, the only members it has been faithfully applied to are members of SLEC. While its intent is noble, its implementation throughout the party as a whole isn't feasible and to have it in the bylaws without a means of feasible implementation leaves a whole lot of room for people's ability to participate in party affairs open for attack by the unscrupulous.



Libertarian Party of Texas
2024 State Convention
Bylaws Committee Proposals

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