



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS

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## Bylaw Changes Proposed 2009

Dave Brady, Crystal Jurczynski, Dan Kamerling, Kent McMillen, and Val Vetter propose the following changes to the Party Bylaws. A complete copy of the insertions and deletions follows, but are summarized here for clarification.

### Major Changes

- [1] ARTICLE II. PURPOSE – establishes our own mission as a political party.
- [2] Article X. AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES – Section 3 is removed, as the limitations on authorized political committees are unnecessarily restrictive and may disallow the SOC from working with political committees that would advance our goals.

### Minor Changes

- [3] ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP Section 1. – adding "and maintains" allows us to remove people from the membership list if we cannot contact them.
- [4] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 2. Officers (a) – keeps Party Officer functions the same, but changes the most of the names: "Director" replaces "Chair" for all but the State Chair, "Technology Director" replaces "Webmaster," and "Newsletter Director" replaces "Newsletter Editor" for conformity. Also, a statement was added to specifically allow the SOC to hire contractors for any of these roles if needed.
- [5] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 2. Officers (e) – allows members to also obtain the past two annual Party financial statements.
- [6] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 3. Election and Replacement (d) – provides for Officers to serve until the Business Meeting closes and new Officers assume their duties.
- [8] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 4. Duties (c) (2) – establishes the Campaigns Director as our liaison to national campaigns.
- [9] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 4. Duties (c) (8) – directs the Secretary to post Party documents online, helping to prevent them from disappearing if the Secretary does.
- [10] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 4. Duties (c) (9) – directs the Treasurer to provide FEC report confirmation to the SOC. Also clarifies that copies of the annual income statement do not have to be made for all 1500 Party members. Access for members who do not attend the Business Meeting is provided by [5] above.
- [11] Article VIII. MAILING LIST – Provision is made for subsets of our mailing list to be distributed as well as received from other organizations.
- [12] Article XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY – the annual Business Meeting was added to the list of Party meetings that fall under Robert's Rules.



## Trivial Changes

[13] ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP Section 1&2. – replaces "LPI "and "Libertarian Party of Illinois" with "Party" as established in Article I. Similar changes are made throughout.

[14] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE Section 1. – Establishes the abbreviation "SOC" as well as a standardized use of "Local Chapters" and "Party Officers." Changes are made to implement this wording throughout.

[15] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE Section 2. (c) – Clarification: the offices do not combine, but a person may hold more than 1 office.

[16] ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE Section 2. (e) – the phrase "annual Business Meeting" replaces "State Convention business session" to conform to current usage. Similar replacements made throughout.

[17] Redundant phrases have been removed: "may from time to time" be necessary in ARTICLE IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, Section 4. Duties (b) (2) and "in the sense of these Bylaws" in ARTICLE VI. LOCAL CHAPTERS Section 1.

[18] Numbers were standardized, spelling out those less than 10 and using numerals for all others.

BYLAWS OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS  
As ~~Amended~~ Proposed October ~~25~~, 20089

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

Article II. PURPOSE

~~The purpose of the Party shall be to promote the ideals specified in the National Libertarian Party Statement of Principles by any means consistent with those Principles.~~ Elect Libertarians to office and move public policy in a libertarian direction.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A member shall be any person who requests membership and provides and maintains a current mailing address or a current phone number and whose ~~LPI~~Party dues, if any, are current.

Section 2. A member, upon joining the ~~Libertarian Party of Illinois~~, must agree that "People have the right to control their own lives as long as they do not initiate the use of force or fraud against others."

Article IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a State Organizing Committee, herein after referred to as "SOC," consisting of representatives of ~~affiliated e~~Local Chapters and elected Party ~~O~~officers to oversee the Party's affairs.

Section 2. Officers

(a) The officers of the Party shall be: ~~a~~ State Chair; Secretary, Treasurer, ~~a~~ Campaign Chair~~Director~~; ~~a~~ Membership Chair~~Director~~; ~~a~~ Public Relations Chair~~Director~~; ~~an~~ Activism Chair~~Director~~; ~~a~~ Fundraising Chair~~Director~~; ~~a~~ Legislative Chair; ~~a~~ Secretary; ~~a~~ Treasurer; ~~a~~ Webmaster~~Director~~, Technology Director; and ~~a~~ Newsletter Editor~~Newsletter Director~~. Contractors can be hired by the SOC to fill one or more of these roles, if needed. Any such contractors would not become Party Officers.

(b) All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members. No Party Officer shall be an officer in any other political party.

(c) ~~Party offices may combine as elected by the Convention or State Organizing Committee, however~~ A member holding more than one office shall be counted only once for voting purposes or establishing a quorum.

(d) Terms of offices shall be from the close of the State Convention at which the Officers were elected until the close of the second State Convention following their election.

(e) Members can receive the name and contact information of Party ~~O~~fficers, ~~State Organizing, Committee~~SOC Representatives, and Judicial Committee members as well as minutes from the past two years' ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC meetings, ~~and State Convention~~annual bBusiness ~~sessions~~Meetings, and annual financial reports by requesting them of the Secretary or State Chair.

### Section 3. Election and Replacement

(a) Each Party Officer shall be elected by a majority vote at the State Convention.

(b) In the event of a vacancy of the State Chair, the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC shall appoint an interim State Chair from among the ~~SOC Party O~~fficers by a majority vote of the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC.

(c) In the event of vacancies in other offices, the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC shall appoint an interim officer from among qualified members.

(d) Interim officers appointed by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC shall serve until the close of the next annual State Convention, at which time they may be elected or replaced by majority vote of the Convention. Mid-term replacement officers elected by the Convention shall serve only the remainder of the original officer's term.

(e) Any ~~LPI State Organizing Committee~~Party Officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC. Chapter representatives to the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC may only be removed by their respective Local Chapters according to the Local Chapters' bylaws.

### Section 4. Duties

(a) The ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC shall:

(1) Authorize and manage all activities undertaken in the name of or representing the Party.

(2) Hold regular meetings at least quarterly. In addition, the State Chair or any 3 SOC members may call an emergency meeting.

(3) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee.

(4) Determine the date, location, and agenda of the State Convention.

(5) Determine membership dues and period of membership.

(6) Elect a Chair pro tem to preside over any single meeting in the event that the State Chair is unable to do so.

(7) The Quorum shall be five, at least three of whom shall be ~~State~~ Party Officers; the others shall be ~~L~~ocal ~~C~~hapter representatives.

(8) The ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

(b) The Executive Board shall:

(1) Consist of all ~~elected~~ Party Officers.

(2) Perform duties as authorized by these bylaws, delegated to it by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC, and such other duties as ~~may from time to time be~~ necessary between ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC meetings.

(3) The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the State Chair or at the request of any two ~~members of the Executive Board~~Party Officers.

(4) The Executive Board may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

(c) Officers' duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) State Chair

(i) Preside over Executive Board, ~~and State Organizing Committee~~SOC, and ~~State Convention~~annual Business SessionsMeetings.

(ii) Serve ex-officio on all committees formed by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC.

(iii) Set the agenda for ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC meetings.

(iv) Supervise the activities of all paid employees and independent contractors of the Party.

(2) Campaign ~~Chair~~ Director

(i) Act as liaison and resource for the Party to all local and national campaign organizations.

(ii) Coordinate all statewide campaign petitioning efforts.

(iii) Develop and recruit candidates for statewide public office.

(3) Membership ~~Chair~~ Director

(i) Oversee the maintenance of the membership database.

(ii) Coordinate the development and maintenance of all membership and recruiting literature.

(iii) Develop and manage programs to recruit new and retain current members.

(iv) Develop and manage programs to establish new Local Chapters

~~(4)~~ Public Relations ~~Chair~~ Director

(i) Coordinate all communication to promote the Party and its activities to the general public and like-minded organizations.

(ii) Oversee the maintenance of the media database.

(iii) Issue official Party press releases.

(5) Activism ~~Chair~~ Director

(i) Identify and coordinate Party involvement and activity in national, statewide, and regional events

(ii) Assist affiliates to identify and participate in local activism and outreach events

(6) Fundraising ~~Chair~~ Director

(i) Coordinate the preparation and mailing of fund-raising letters.

(ii) Coordinate all other fund-raising activities for the party.

-(7) Legislative ~~Chair~~Director

(i) Plan and coordinate party activities to bring about changes to state election law that allows fair and equitable ballot access for all political party candidates.

(ii) Monitor state legislative activity to identify opportunities to use party activity to encourage legislative action that moves Illinois closer to libertarian principles.

(iii) Participate in no activity that will encumber the Party, ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC, or any affiliated chapter in state lobbying regulation.

(8) Secretary

(i) Keep all official Party records and ensure records are posted online to facilitate access by authorized persons.

(ii) Take accurate minutes and submit them in writing for ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC approval.

(iii) Distribute the proposed agenda of the upcoming ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC meeting and the Minutes of the most recent meeting to ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC members and committee chairs prior to each meeting.

(iv) Conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.

(9) Treasurer

(i) Receive, record, and disburse all party funds.

(ii) Prepare a budget for the calendar year, to be approved by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC, and transmitted to the next treasurer at the term's conclusion.

(iii) Get Executive Board approval for any non-budgeted item exceeding \$50.

(iv) Distribute written monthly financial reports to the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC.

(v) Manage preparation of required FEC reports and other governmental financial reports for the Party as required.  
Distribute FEC report confirmations and access links to the SOC.

(vi) Present a detailed annual income statement at the state convention, ~~with copies to be made available to all Party members.~~

(10) Technology Director~~Webmaster~~

(i) Develop and maintain online resources to support Party activities, including Domains, Websites, Email Addresses, and Databases

(ii) Solicit Website content from Officers, Members and appropriate outside sources

(11) Newsletter ~~Editor~~Director

(i) Manage the publishing and distribution of the Party's newsletter.

(ii) Establish and promulgate the Newsletter publication schedule and content submission deadlines.

(iii) Solicit Newsletter content from Officers, Members and appropriate outside sources.

## Article V. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a Judicial Committee whose purpose shall be:

(a) To hold trials in those cases in which a Party member has been accused of violating a Party rule or engaging in wrongdoing;

(b) To hold hearings in those cases in which a procedure followed, a policy adopted or a decision made by a Party member or members is thought to be in violation of a Bylaw of the Party.

Section 2. The Judicial Committee shall consist of five members. Members must be elected at the State Convention. Each member may serve on the committee for up to three years, after which he or she must be reelected by the State

Convention. Any vacancy occurring between State Conventions because of resignation, disqualification or any other reason may be filled by majority vote of the ~~State Organizing Committee~~[SOC](#). If a member is disqualified or is unable to attend a trial or hearing, any person chosen to fill the vacancy shall serve on the Judicial Committee only with regard to that single case. If a vacancy is filled by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~[SOC](#), that person shall serve on the Judicial Committee only until the next State Convention, at which time that person's membership shall end unless he or she is elected to be a member by the State Convention.

Section 3. In those cases in which a Party member is accused of violating a Party rule or law, the Judicial Committee shall hold a trial. The accusers and the accused shall be given the opportunity to present evidence before the Judicial Committee, and after the evidence has been heard, the Judicial Committee shall decide whether the accused is guilty or innocent. If the Party member is found guilty, the Judicial Committee will decide what penalty, if any, should be imposed. The trial will be open to all Party members unless the accused desires a closed proceeding.

Section 4. In those cases which the Judicial Committee is serving as an appellate body, the Judicial Committee will accept a written brief or argument from any party wishing to present one and will consider the arguments presented therein in rendering a decision. The briefs may be presented before or at the beginning of the hearing. The Judicial Committee will hold a hearing at which it will discuss the issues presented. All Party members shall be entitled to be present at this meeting, and the Judicial Committee may, if it so desires, allow the presentation of oral argument from any person attending the meeting.

Section 5. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing upon receiving a written request to do so signed or supported by at least three Party members. A written request for a trial should state the name of the accused, the action taken by the accused, and which rule of rules the action supposedly violated. A written request for a hearing should state the action taken and describe how this action allegedly violates a bylaw or bylaws. The written request for a trial or hearing should be mailed, delivered in person or emailed to any member of the Judicial Committee, who must then notify the other members of the Judicial Committee of the request. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing within sixty days after receiving a written request to do so by any Party member. The Judicial Committee shall render a decision on any question within thirty days after the conclusion of a trial or hearing. The decision must be in writing and must be submitted to the editor of the newsletter for publication.

Section 6. No person may serve simultaneously on the ~~State Organizing Committee~~[SOC](#) and the Judicial Committee. Qualifications for serving on the Judicial Committee are the same as those for Party [O](#)fficers. No person may serve on the Judicial Committee during a particular trial or hearing if that person is the person who submitted the written request for trial or hearing.

Section 7. Any decision of the Judicial Committee may be appealed to the general membership at a State Convention, which may overrule the decision of the Judicial Committee, by two-thirds vote.

Section 8. Notification of the time, date and place of any trial or hearing before the Judicial Committee will be provided to Party members via email, postal mail, or telephone at least 30 days prior to the trial or hearing.

Section 9. No decision may be made by the Judicial Committee unless five members participate. Decisions need not be unanimous; decisions will be made by majority rule. If one or more members cannot attend a trial or hearing the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC must appoint temporary replacements.

Section 10. If a Party member is found guilty of having violated a rule of the Party, the Judicial Committee may impose the following punishments:

- (a) The guilty party may be expelled from the Party.
- (b) The guilty party may be required to engage in an action, refrain from engaging in an action, or pay a fine, or, if he or she refuses, may be expelled from the Party.

## Article VI. LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. Any five members who wish to form a Local Chapter and affiliate with the Party ~~in the sense of these Bylaws~~ may so petition the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC. Each ~~affiliated Local C~~hapter shall have one representative on the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC. No Party member shall be listed for purposes of ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC voting representation as a member of more than one chapter.

Section 2. Each local chapter shall, prior to recognition by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC, and annually within ~~thirty (30)~~ days following each State Convention, submit credentials to the Secretary consisting of the following:

- (a) The Local Chapter's bylaws.
- (b) A list of current Local eChapter officers and ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC Representative.
- (c) Date, time and location of regular scheduled meetings, which are to be held at least quarterly, and a contact person's name, phone, and/or email address.

Section 3. Any changes in or additions to a Local Chapter's bylaws, officers, ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC Representative, or regular scheduled meeting information shall be communicated to the Secretary within 30 days.

Section 4. Geographically defined Local Chapters that are located where the Party is an established political party under the laws of Illinois shall function as an authorized political committee. These Local Chapters, when affiliated with the Party, shall have all the rights and privileges in all functions that are generally permitted to local political organizations by the state of Illinois.

#### Article VII. STATE CONVENTION

The annual State Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC. Announcement will be made to all Party members no fewer than ~~sixty (60)~~ days before the convention.

#### Article VIII. MAILING LIST

Section 1. The ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC shall maintain a mailing list of those people that have expressed an interest in the Party. Such list, and all future additions, shall be the sole property of the Party.

Section 2. Any uses of the mailing list or subset of the mailing list, other than for official Party business, must be approved by a three-fifths vote of the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC. The Mailing list shall be coded so that any person may request to have his or her name removed from any part of the mailing list released to other organizations. Official Party business includes the use of mailing lists to develop Local Chapters at the discretion of the Membership Chair.

Section 3. All organizations provided access to the mailing list will, as a condition of authorization, make their mailing list or a mutually agreeable subset of their mailing list available to the Party.~~All authorized political committees will, as a condition of authorization, make all names of persons interested in campaigns available to the Party for inclusion in the Party mailing list.~~

#### Article IX ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES OR CANDIDATES

The Party shall not fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party.

#### Article X. AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. An "authorized political committee" is one which is permitted access to the Party mailing list only during the period of authorization and only on behalf of such candidate, candidates, or activities as represented by the committee at the

time of its authorization, otherwise provided by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC.

Section 2. An authorized committee for political campaigns must be endorsed by the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC.

~~Section 3. All authorized political committees shall meet the following conditions:~~

~~(a) A committee can finance only candidates endorsed by the Party.~~

~~(b) All officers of the committee shall be current Party members, except the Treasurer, who may be a Certified Public Accountant or accounting firm.~~

~~(c) The committee shall make financial reports available to the State Organizing Committee upon request.~~

#### Article XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of the annual Business Meeting, State Organizing CommitteeSOC, and Executive Board meetings unless inconsistent with these Bylaws.

#### Article XII. AMENDMENT

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote ~~of a State Convention~~at the annual Business Meeting. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary no fewer than ~~forty five (45)~~ days before the ~~State Convention~~annual Business sessionMeeting, and the proposed amendments shall be published and made available to the Party membership no fewer than ~~thirty (30)~~ days before the annual Business sessionMeeting.

(a) During debate of a proposed amendment a member may offer an amendment to the proposed amendment that has the effect of correcting conflicts with existing bylaws.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee, with the approval of the ~~State Organizing Committee~~SOC, shall amend these Bylaws only in order to conform to law.