

CNJLP BY-LAWS

Approved 3/25/21

1. Name:

The name of this association shall be the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey hereinafter referred to as "The Party". The Party shall be affiliated with the New Jersey Libertarian Party (NJLP).

2. Purpose and Goals:

The purpose of the Party is to promote, through all levels of society, the libertarian ideal that the initiation of force should not be used for achieving political or social goals, and to promote the Party principles of limited government and individual liberty, as best enumerated by the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

The Party is the electoral arm of the libertarian movement in central New Jersey, with the goal of placing Libertarians in political office at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels, and to commit to outreach activities to attract and mobilize voters. Another goal is to promote the growth of the Libertarian Party and movement through the constant recruitment of new members, to establish and maintain a Libertarian political party infrastructure in the affiliated central New Jersey counties.

Specifically, the Party is a Political organization organized and operated primarily for the purpose of achieving or otherwise influencing the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of libertarian candidates to Federal, State, county, municipal or regional public or political office; the election of Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors; and the passage or defeat of public questions.

The Party may also engage in public education, member education, and civic affairs.

3. Membership:

3.1 Membership: Each NJLP member in good standing residing in the Affiliated Counties, as defined by the NJLP, shall be a Voting Member of the Party, and voting shall be restricted to such NJLP members.

3.2 Membership List: Members shall be furnished, upon request to the Treasurer, a copy of the membership list at a reasonable cost of reproduction, provided that the membership list may be used only for official Party business and may not be disclosed to any other organization or nonmember individual.

3.3 Membership Outreach: Members shall furnish a reasonable mode of communication if they wish to receive any and all Party communications.

4. Meetings, Quorum and Voting:

4.1 Meetings: There shall be three types of meetings:

4.1.a *Caucus meetings at NJLP Meetings and Convention:* These meetings shall be held according to the NJLP bylaws.

4.1.b *Regular Meetings:* Regular Meetings shall be held at least eight [8] times per year on a date and time and at a place determined by resolution of the officers. If a majority of the officers determines that there needs to be a change of the date, time or place of a regular meeting, the secretary shall provide notice to all Members as soon as practicably possible. In a month during which the party holds a caucus meeting, a regular meeting shall be held within ten [10] business days prior. The secretary shall provide notice to all Voting Members no fewer than ten [10] business days before a regular meeting.

4.1.c *Special Meetings:* The Chair may call or ten percent (10%) of the Voting Members plus three (3) Voting Members may call a special meeting. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be included in the call. The secretary shall provide notice to all Members no fewer than five [5] business days prior to any and all Special Meetings as to the date, time and location of each meeting.

4.2 *Meeting Notices:* The secretary shall provide notice to all Members no fewer than ten [10] business days prior to any and all Caucus, NJLP Convention, and Regular Meetings as to the date, time and location of each meeting.

4.3 *Quorum:* Whenever a meeting has been scheduled in accordance with these bylaws, it shall be considered a properly convened and legal meeting capable of transacting business. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of the Voting Members present but this number shall not be less than 4. However, in order to remove any officer, terminate any membership, revoke a Charter, vote to dissolve The Party, or amend these bylaws, a quorum of one twentieth of the Voting Members as of the current or most recent NJLP Convention shall be required but this number shall not be less than 5. For Voting Members verified to be remotely attending through available technology, at a live event, they will be counted toward the quorum if their connection is active at the time of the vote on any matter.

4.4 *Voting:* In order to remove any officer, terminate any membership, revoke a Charter, vote to dissolve The Party, or amend these bylaws, a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present shall be required. For all other proposed actions, a simple majority of the Voting Members present shall be required. All voting must be done in-person, or through available technology, during a live event, and not by proxy. The Chair shall not vote unless necessary to break a tie.

5. Involuntary Termination of Membership and Recall of Officers:

No membership shall be involuntarily terminated nor shall any officer be recalled unless such termination or recall is brought before the Voting Members at a properly convened meeting.

5.1 *Standards for Recall of an Officer:* The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the case of recall of an officer shall be whether the officer is derelict in the performance of the duties conferred upon him or her by these bylaws, or for other good cause shown.

5.2 *Standards for Termination of a Membership:* The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the case of termination of a membership shall be whether the member's Party-related conduct is injurious to the Party or any member thereof.

5.3 *Procedure:* If ten (10%) percent of the Voting Members plus three Voting Members desire to terminate any individual's membership, they shall sign a petition to that effect, including the basis for the proposed termination, as defined in section 5.2 above, and direct it to the Chair who shall forthwith provide written notice to the member whose termination is sought. Such notice shall include the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting and shall be served by certified mail no later than ten (10) business days in advance of the meeting. The member whose removal is sought shall be given an opportunity to speak in his or her defense at the meeting.

Officers may be recalled by resolution at any meeting consistent with the quorum and majority requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws.

6. Officers:

There shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and State Representative. Elections for these offices shall be held at Regular Meetings every six [6] months with one election being at the Caucus meeting. Any Voting Member eighteen years of age or older may be an officer. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and State Representative shall collectively constitute the Board of Trustees. No person shall hold more than one office concurrently.

6.1 *Voting:* Nominations shall be received from the floor. Nominees must be Voting Members. The elections shall be by counted vote and shall include a "NOTA - none of the above" category. Voting Members may vote for as many nominees as they wish. All votes will be counted equally and the nominee who receives a plurality of the votes shall be declared the winner. In the case of a tie, a runoff ballot will be held with each Voting Member casting one vote. Voting must be done in person and not by proxy.

6.2 *Vacancies:* If "NOTA - none of the above" wins any election for which there was another nominee, the office shall remain unfilled. If an office becomes vacant, a special election shall be held at the next Regular Meeting. Until such special election is held, the Chair shall designate a Voting Member to assume the duties of the vacant office unless the vacancy is the office of the Chair.

6.3 *Duties of the Chair:*

6.3.a The Chair is the executive officer of the Party and is responsible for ensuring that all officers and committees are functioning and are carrying out their individual responsibilities.

6.3.b He or she shall prepare an agenda for and preside at all Party meetings.

6.3.c He or she shall be a voting ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall personally attend, or designate the Vice Chair to attend, meetings of committees whenever necessary or advisable.

6.3.d He or she shall appoint special committees as the need arises.

6.3.e He or she shall appoint the chair and members for each Standing Committees on the basis of talents, interest and willingness of members. The tenure of such appointees shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

6.4 Duties of the Vice Chair:

6.4.a The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence or removal and generally assist the Chair.

6.4.b He or she may be designated by the Chair to attend meetings of committees in the chair's stead, in which capacity the Vice Chair shall have all the privileges and responsibilities of the Party's Chair.

6.5 Duties of the Secretary:

6.5.a The Secretary shall be custodian of the bylaws and shall keep an accurate copy of the current version as well as prior versions and amendments.

6.5.b He or she shall accurately record in permanent records, all minutes of the meetings, which will also be prominently posted, before the next scheduled CNJLP meeting, at the regularly-designated location, accessible to Members. Members shall be furnished, upon request to the Secretary, a copy of any or all said minutes, or information on how to access them.

6.5.c He or she shall conduct all official correspondence of the Party.

6.5.d He or she shall maintain and keep an accurate attendance record of all Voting Members.

6.5.e He or she shall be responsible for notifying Voting Members of the date, time and place of Regular and Special meetings.

6.5.f He or she shall preside over any meeting in which both the Chair or Vice Chair are absent.

6.6 Duties of the Treasurer:

6.6.a The Treasurer shall maintain proper financial records and report them at all meetings.

6.6.b He or she shall prepare and submit any financial or tax reports as required.

6.6.c He or she shall maintain the Voting Member list, and provide the list to Voting Members according to section 3.2 above.

6.6.d He or she shall make available the Party's financial records for examination upon request.

6.6.e He or she shall promptly pay all duly authorized bills.

6.6.f He or she shall observe sound accounting practices in maintaining all records and shall suggest and institute improvements wherever necessary.

6.6.g He or she shall be responsible to train his or her successor in the details and functions of the office of Treasurer.

6.7 Duties of the State Representative:

6.7.a He or she shall attend, or cause to be attended by a substitute if necessary, all State meetings.

6.7.b He or she shall represent, or cause to be represented by a substitute if necessary, the region's interests in all State meetings.

6.7.c He or she shall report, or cause to be reported by a substitute if necessary, the results of all State meetings to the Board.

7. Committees

Each Standing and Special Committee shall have a permanent place on the agenda and a member of the committee shall report on the committee's progress at each and every meeting.

7.1 Recruitment Committee: There shall be a Recruitment Committee, which is responsible for recruiting new members.

7.2 Activities & Program Committee: There shall be an Activities Committee, which is responsible for involving the Party in demonstrations and parades as well as interfacing with the government and providing educational activities at Party events.

7.3 Nominations Committee: There shall be a Nominations Committee, which is responsible for recommending candidates to be nominated at the NJLP Convention and guiding them through the nomination process.

7.4 Volunteer Committee: There shall be a Volunteer Committee, which is responsible for securing and coordinating all volunteer activities, including, but not limited to, campaign support.

7.5 Fundraising Committee: There shall be a Fundraising Committee, which is responsible for coordinating all fundraising activities and securing as much fundraising capital as possible.

7.6 Policy Committee: There shall be a Policy Committee, which is responsible for drafting and disseminating all Party policy and platform positions and statements for use by all Voting Members and Candidates.

8. Nominations:

8.1 Nominations Within the Region: Nominations within the regions shall be made in accordance with section 11(b) of the NJLP bylaws.

8.1.a Nomination Process:

8.1.a.1 *Vetting*: The Nominations Committee shall identify potential candidates, and review all potential candidates presenting themselves to the region, to declare their candidacy, and perform an initial vetting to identify any general difficulties with a potential nomination of the Candidate.

8.1.a.2 *Candidate Surveys*: The Candidate shall complete the NJLP and region surveys and submit them to the region for review.

8.1.a.3 *Candidate Key Issue Platform*: The Candidate shall provide a list of key issues that they plan to run on in their campaign to the region for review.

8.1.a.4 *Meeting to Review Views Opposing Party Platform*: The Candidate shall meet with the Policy Committee to review the Party's platform across all identified issues and identify those which the candidate disagrees with, so that a recommendation for or against nomination can be an informed one, and also so that the Candidate is aware of those positions that must be identified as not the position of the Party in any public statements.

8.1.a.5 *Recommendation of Candidate Slate*: The Nominations Committee shall recommend a slate of candidates for various offices, to be presented at the NJLP Convention for formal nomination.

8.2 *Nominations Across Regions*: Nominations across regions shall be made at the NJLP Convention, according to the procedures established by the NJLP.

9. Endorsement of candidates:

9.1 *Endorsement of candidates in partisan elections*: The Party may endorse any candidate for public office in a partisan election appearing on the ballot in the Affiliated Counties where there is no candidate duly nominated by the Party, the Libertarian Party, or the New Jersey Libertarian Party, or will be listed on the ballot with the designation "Libertarian Party" for the same office. Any candidate so endorsed must certify in writing his or her opposition to the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Endorsement shall be granted upon majority vote in favor of endorsement at a Regular Meeting.

9.2 *Endorsement of candidates in non-partisan elections*: The Party may endorse any candidate for public office in a non-partisan election in which the candidate certifies in writing his or her opposition to the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Endorsement shall be granted upon majority vote in favor of endorsement at a Regular Meeting.

10. Chapters:

10.1 *Recognition*: Whenever two or more members of the Party in good standing are residents of the same County or Municipality within the Affiliated Counties and desire to form a Libertarian Party Chapter for the County or Municipality in which they reside, they shall present a petition seeking recognition, signed by at least two of the said residents, at a regular or special meeting of the Party. Upon presentation

of such a petition, any Voting Member may move to grant a Charter to the new County or Municipal Party as a Chapter of the Party. No motion to grant a Charter to a County or Municipal Chapter shall be in order if there is another Chapter already recognized in that County or Municipality.

10.2 *Withdrawal of Recognition*: A Charter may be revoked at a Regular or Special meeting called for that purpose provided that the quorum and other requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws have been met. Previous notice of the motion shall be given at the preceding Regular meeting or a Special Meeting called for that purpose, providing that there are at least 15 days between the meeting at which previous notice is given and the meeting at which the motion is voted on. Notice of the motion must be sent via certified mail to the Chapter that is the subject of the motion at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken. The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the case of revoking a Charter shall be whether the Chapter's conduct is injurious or potentially injurious to the Party, to any member of the Party, or to the purposes and goals of the Party.

11. Amendments:

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Party by a two-thirds vote, provided that the quorum requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws have been met. These bylaws may not be altered by the Board of Trustees.