

Special Edition: 2022 LPRI Convention

From the Chair

A few words from Chair William Hunt.

2022 marks the 45th anniversary of the formation of the Rhode Island state affiliate of the Libertarian Party. This is a significant milestone, but to put it into perspective, 2022 also marks the 87th anniversary of Rhode Island's so-called "bloodless revolution," when Democrats last seized control of our state legislature. They have yet to relinquish their overwhelming majority or any of the meaningful political appointments.

Those in political power are never going to just hand over control to us. Democrats and Republicans view us as uninvited guests; they are never going to give us anything; we are always going to have to go take it.

As Libertarians, we believe that individuals acting in their own self-interest is the most efficient way to produce the most benefit for the largest number of people. If we apply that same principle to the Rhode Island state affiliate, the fastest way to spread our message is through your own individual actions.

We have a great core group of individuals who have been working hard to build the foundation and the framework for our political party to achieve ballot access and subsequent official party status in our state. What we need now are individuals to help us to spread our message of Liberty, join our cause, and help us achieve our goals.

Come join us for our annual convention and fundraiser on April 24th. The deadline to sign up is midnight April 11th, and even if you don't qualify to be a voting delegate, you can come join the celebration, have some great food, and help raise some money for the party, as well as meet our candidates and our members, talk about our plans for 2022, and help us find ways where your skills would be most useful.

If you can't attend on the 24th, send us a note through our volunteer page: <https://lpri.us/volunteer/>. Here you can find ideas of ways you can help, or tell us what you think you would be good at. No matter what, we want to hear from you. Come be a part of what we are building right here in the state of Rhode Island.

-Billy Hunt
Chairman, LPRI

Interested in getting more involved with the party?

The party needs volunteers to help with a number of election-related activities, such as door knocking and collecting petition signatures. We also need party members willing to take on roles of greater responsibility. There are a number of vacant positions within the party's organizational chart. More information on these roles can be found [here](#).

2022 Convention Items

The Libertarian Party of Rhode Island's annual convention is significant for several reasons. First, it's where some of the party's most significant business—election of officers and bylaws amendments—is done. Second, it's the best opportunity for members to participate in party affairs and ensure their voice influences the party.

At this year's convention, which will be held on Sunday, April 24 at Italian Corner Deli Market in East Providence, we'll be holding elections for three executive committee positions:

- Vice-Chair
 - “The Vice-Chair shall: assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair when required; be responsible for the internal committee work of the LPRI; and represent the committees at executive sessions in the absence of committee directors. The Vice-Chair shall also serve as an ex officio member of all committees.”
- From the LPRI bylaws.
- Treasurer
 - “The Treasurer shall: receive, disburse, and account for all LPRI funds under the supervision of the Chair and the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual report and make available any financial information required by the Executive Committee. The LPRI will not incur any outstanding debt.”
- From the LPRI bylaws.
- Member at-large
 - An At-Large member will be nominated and elected at the annual convention to serve a term of one year. The At-Large nominee must be an LPRI member eligible to vote at the convention. The At-Large member shall assist any of the officers in performing their duties when required.
- From the LPRI bylaws.

We'll also be voting for delegates to represent the party at the Libertarian National Convention. Per the party bylaws, delegates to the national convention, as well as alternate members, must be LPRI members in good standing.

Anyone wishing to nominate themselves to serve as a delegate at this year's convention should be aware of a proposed Region 8 agreement on which they will be required to vote. The text of the proposed agreement can be found [here](#).

Amendments to LPRI's bylaws may also be voted on during the convention. Per our current bylaws:

These Bylaws may be amended with 21 days prior notice by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at an annual convention, or at a special convention where such an amendment is specified as a purpose. or if proposed from the convention floor, without notice, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be submitted by any LPRI member eligible to vote at convention.

In the event candidates for public office decide to seek the party's nomination, members will decide at convention whether to award the nomination to the candidate in question. Per our bylaws:

Candidates for public office who seek endorsement by the LPRI must be voting members of LPRI (as per Article III). Such candidates for public office who seek endorsement by the LPRI shall be nominated and chosen by simple majority vote at the convention preceding the election. All votes for endorsement must include the option of "None of the Above" (NOTA) as the last selection on the ballot.

[Read the party's bylaws in full.](#)

Post-Convention

2022 is an election year, which means the convention is just the beginning of the party's work for the year. In the event the party awards its endorsement to a candidate at the convention, we'll work with that candidate's campaign to get ballot access and promote their message of liberty.

A candidate running for a state-wide office as a libertarian can help LPRI receive party status, if he or she receives five percent of the vote. Even if our candidate loses the election, we can still win. Recognized party status means a number of things, including automatic ballot access and the ability to register voters as libertarians, which will help us expand our reach in the next presidential election.

But the executive committee can't do that alone. We need people willing to volunteer: to knock doors, to make phone calls, to distribute palm cards, to collect ballot

signatures, and to help cheerlead for the cause of liberty.

Again, we don't need to win the election in order for liberty to win. We only need 5%: that's a very achievable goal. Especially this year, with no strong candidate showing from Republicans and a crowded field of candidates looking to unseat the incumbent Democratic governor in a primary. The political landscape is ripe for an independent candidate to capitalize on dissatisfaction with both parties: one that has routinely overstepped legitimate political authority with pandemic restrictions and mandates and another that has failed to stop those transgressions.

But though the 5% we need to gain party status is achievable, it won't be achieved without the help of our party members. Please, visit the volunteer page on our website and let us know you'll help us in our effort to #TurnRIGold: <https://lpri.us/volunteer/>

.....



<https://www.lpri.us.com>

Follow us on social media.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lpofri>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LPofRI>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lpofrhodeisland/>