

1 **BYLAWS OF**
2 **THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF RHODE ISLAND**

3
4 **ARTICLE I**

5 **Name**

6 The name of this organization is THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF RHODE
7 ISLAND, hereinafter referred to as the "LPRI."

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9 **ARTICLE II**

10 **Purpose, Platform and Affiliation**

11 **Section 1. Purpose**

12 The purpose of the LPRI is to advocate for liberty and promote libertarian political
13 ideals within the State of Rhode Island consistent within the LPRI Platform and
14 Statement of Principles by:

- 15 a. Disseminating information about libertarian ideals and principles;
16 b. Nominating and promoting candidates for local, state and national public
17 office;
18 c. Promoting and coordinating district and local organizations throughout the
19 state; and
20 d. Selecting and sending delegates to Libertarian Party national conventions.

21 **Section 2. Platform and Statement of Principles**

- 22 a. The Statement of Principles affirms the philosophy upon which the LPRI is
23 founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall

1 Affiliate members shall be Rhode Island residents who are current, paid members of
2 the national Libertarian Party.

3 **Section 3. Associate Member**

4 Associate members are LPRI members that reside outside the state of RI. They do not
5 have voting rights nor are they eligible to serve as officers.

6 **Section 4. Dues**

7 The Executive Committee may create levels of membership and shall determine the
8 contribution or dues levels for such memberships.

9 **Section 5. Rights of Members**

10 LPRI members and affiliate members shall have the right to vote at all state and
11 special conventions. LPRI members shall have the right to be nominated for and
12 serve on the Executive Committee, as a Director or member of a committee, as a
13 delegate to the LP national convention, and to seek endorsement of the LPRI to run
14 for political office.

15 **Section 6. Termination of Membership**

16 The membership of any member shall terminate upon occurrence of any of the
17 following events:

- 18 1. Resignation of the member.
- 19 2. Failure of a member to pay annual dues.
- 20 3. A determination of the Executive Committee by a four-fifths (4/5) majority
21 vote that the member has failed to adhere to the Statement of Principles and
22 libertarian pledge.

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ARTICLE IV

1 **Officers**

2 **Section 1. Officers**

3 The officers of the LPRI shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

4 **Section 2. Nominations and Elections.**

5 Officers will be nominated at the LPRI Convention, elected by majority vote of the
6 delegate assembly, shall take office immediately following the close of the LPRI
7 convention, and shall serve until the end of the next convention for which their term
8 expires. All officer nominees must be LPRI members eligible to vote at the LPRI
9 convention. The Chair and Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The
10 Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years. Except for the
11 first year in which this bylaws revision is adopted, all officers will be elected and
12 serve terms as prescribed in Article IV Section 3.

13 **Section 3. Term of Office.**

14 All officers shall serve a term of two years, except for the first year in which this
15 bylaws revision is adopted, wherein the Vice-Chair and Treasurer will serve for one
16 year, and the Chair and Secretary will serve the standard two-year term.

17 **Section 4. Limitations**

18 No two offices may be combined or held by the same individual.

19 **Section 5. Duties of Officers**

- 20 a. The Chair shall: preside at all LPRI conventions and all meetings of the
21 Executive Committee; be the chief executive officer of the LPRI; be the
22 official contact and spokesperson for the LPRI; and approve all LPRI
23 publications.
- 24 b. The Vice-Chair shall: assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair
25 when required; be responsible for the internal committee work of the LPRI;

1 and represent the committees at executive sessions in the absence of
2 committee directors. The Vice-Chair shall also serve as an ex officio
3 member of all committees.

4 c. The Secretary shall: maintain the LPRI membership list; take minutes and
5 set the agenda of all conventions and Executive Committee meetings; keep
6 other records as required by the Chair or Executive Committee or by these
7 Bylaws; and serve as registered agent for the LPRI. The Secretary shall also
8 serve as the secretary of the Membership Committee.

9 d. The Treasurer shall: receive, disburse, and account for all LPRI funds under
10 the supervision of the Chair and the Executive Committee. The Treasurer
11 shall prepare an annual report and make available any financial information
12 required by the Executive Committee. The LPRI will not incur any
13 outstanding debt.

14 **Section 6. Removal from Office**

15 An officer may be removed from that position in accordance with Article V Section 6.

16 **Section 7. Vacancies**

17 The Executive Committee will fill vacancies as prescribed in Article V Section 7.

18 **Section 8. Resignation**

19 The Executive Committee will handle resignations as prescribed in Article V Section
20 8.

22 **ARTICLE V**

23 **Executive Committee**

24 **Section 1. Composition**

1 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary,
2 Treasurer, and one At-Large member.

3 **Section 2. At-Large Member**

4 An At-Large member will be nominated and elected at the annual convention to serve
5 a term of one year. The At-Large nominee must be an LPRI member eligible to vote
6 at the convention. The At-Large member shall assist any of the officers in performing
7 their duties when required.

8 **Section 3. Conflicts of Interest**

9 No member of the Executive Committee shall be a member of, or hold a position of
10 trust in, another political party, or openly support a candidate of another political party
11 in opposition to a candidate of the LPRI. Such involvement will result in immediate
12 termination from the Executive Committee.

13 **Section 4. Responsibilities**

14 The Executive Committee shall control and manage all affairs, properties, social
15 media accounts, web domains, financial accounts and funds of the LPRI. The
16 Executive Committee may enact policies to implement these Bylaws, policies which
17 shall be recorded with the Bylaws.

18 **Section 5. Membership Dues**

19 The Executive Committee shall set membership dues and levels, as prescribed in
20 Article III Section 4.

21 **Section 6. Termination**

22 An officer or At-Large member may be removed from that position for cause by a
23 four-fifths (4/5) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

24 **Section 7. Vacancies**

1 The Executive Committee may, by a three-fifths (3/5) majority vote, appoint a new
2 officer or At-Large member if a vacancy occurs, except as defined in Article VIII
3 section 6, to complete the term of the office vacated.

4 **Section 8. Resignation**

5 A member of the Executive Committee resigning his or her office shall notify the
6 Executive Committee at least seven (7) days before the effective date of his or her
7 resignation. If the member does not submit a formal resignation, the unexcused
8 absence from three consecutive monthly Executive Committee meetings shall be
9 considered resignation, effective immediately upon adjournment of the third missed
10 meeting, as prescribed in Article VI Section 7

11 **Section 9. Account Access**

12 All digital account login information, passwords, and administrative rights and
13 privileges will remain within the Executive Committee. Use of account credentials
14 may be delegated by simple majority vote to appropriate committee directors and
15 organizational staff.

16 **Section 10. Ownership and Use of Name**

17 The Executive Committee shall have sole dominion over use of the organization's
18 name and its common derivatives, including Libertarian Party of RI, Rhode Island
19 Libertarian Party, LPRI, and LP of RI. If an LPRI member operates an entity that
20 may present confusion or conflict with the official LPRI identity, the unofficial entity
21 must prominently display a disclaimer similar to the following in form and meaning:
22 “The contents of this account (site, page, group, etc.) are not authorized or approved
23 by the Libertarian Party of Rhode Island or any of its affiliates.”

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ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet on the third Monday of each month, or at such time and place as determined by action of the Executive Committee or call of the Chair. If a meeting is to be held at a time and/or place not arranged at a previous meeting, it is the responsibility of the Secretary to give reasonable advance notice to all Executive Committee members.

Section 2. Virtual Meetings

The Executive Committee may meet by teleconference or video conference if all Executive Committee members agree in advance, and shall adopt rules of procedure for such teleconferences and video conferences.

Section 3. Special meetings

The Chair, or three other Executive Committee members, may call a special meeting by submitting a request to the Secretary at least 24 hours in advance. Only items listed in the request for a special meeting shall be acted upon at the special meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

A quorum shall be three (3) members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Special Rules

The Executive Committee may establish Special Rules of Order for its meetings.

Section 6. Reporting

The minutes of Executive Committee meetings shall include attendance, and shall be published in the next issue of the LPRI newsletter and posted to the LPRI website.

Section 7. Non-Attendance

1 Executive Committee members, committee directors and organizational staff shall be
2 deemed to be in non-attendance if, at a regularly scheduled Executive Committee
3 meeting, the member fails to respond during roll call or, having missed roll call, fails
4 to announce his or her presence before the meeting is adjourned, or does not otherwise
5 communicate his or her inability to attend the scheduled meeting to a member of the
6 Executive Committee. A member's absence may be excused by declaration of the
7 Chair, and thus not counted as non-attendance for the purposes of this section.

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9 **ARTICLE VII**

10 **Committees, Organizational Staff and Chapters**

11 **Section 1. Authority**

12 The Executive Committee may, by simple majority vote, create permanent or
13 temporary organizational staff or committees as required.

14 **Section 2. Eligibility**

15 All individuals appointed as organizational staff or members of a committee must be
16 LPRI members.

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18 **Section 3. Committee Directors**

19 Each committee shall be chaired by a director responsible for conducting the business
20 of that committee. Within two months of appointment, each committee director shall
21 submit a written policy under which his or her committee will operate. Extensions
22 can be requested and approved by simple majority vote of the Executive Committee.

23 **Section 4. Reporting**

24 All organizational staff and committee directors must report to the Executive
25 Committee at the monthly executive meeting, unless otherwise directed by the

1 Executive Committee. If a director is unable to attend a meeting, the director shall
2 submit his or her report to the Vice-Chair to be presented on the director's behalf at
3 the meeting.

4 **Section 5. Resignation**

5 A director or staff member resigning his or her position shall notify the Executive
6 Committee at least seven (7) days before the resignation takes effect. If a director or
7 member does not submit a formal resignation, unexcused absence from three
8 consecutive Executive Committee meetings shall be considered resignation, effective
9 immediately upon adjournment of the third missed meeting, as prescribed in Article
10 VI Section 7.

11 **Section 6. Chapters**

12 A local or town chapter of the LPRI may be chartered by the Executive Committee in
13 any city or town in which no chapter already exists. No more than one chapter may
14 be chartered in any geographic area. A single chapter may be chartered for two or
15 more contiguous areas, each of which has at least one LPRI member. The Executive
16 Committee may revoke the charter of any chapter by three-fifths (3/5) majority vote
17 of the Executive Committee, if and only if the chapter violates these Bylaws or its
18 own chapter bylaws and rules. The bylaws of a chapter must comport with the LPRI
19 Bylaws.

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ARTICLE VIII

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Conventions

23 **Section 1. Scheduling**

24 It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to set the time, place and
25 schedule of events for the annual convention, provided that the convention must be

1 held sometime during April or May. At least thirty days' notice must be provided to
2 all members concerning these arrangements. The Executive Committee may task or
3 select a standing or special committee to organize the event.

4 **Section 2. Voting Eligibility**

5 To vote at a convention, an LPRI or affiliate member must have been a member for at
6 least 30 days before the date of the convention.

7 **Section 3. Delegates**

8 All LPRI members and affiliate members in attendance and registered shall be voting
9 delegates without benefit of proxy voting.

10 **Section 4. Nominations**

11 To be nominated at a convention, an LPRI member must have been a member for at
12 least 30 days before the date of the convention.

13 **Section 5. Elections**

14 The officers whose terms expire at that year's convention, and the At-Large member
15 of the Executive Committee, shall be elected at the annual convention, shall take
16 office immediately following the close of the convention, and shall serve until the end
17 of the convention during the year in which their term expires, or until their successors
18 are elected.

19 **Section 6. Voting**

20 All elections of candidates, officers and delegates must include the option of "None of
21 the Above" (NOTA) as the last selection on the ballot. If NOTA receives a simple
22 majority of votes, an entirely new slate of candidates may be offered and a new vote
23 taken, or that position shall go unfilled. A vacancy created by this provision may not
24 be filled by the Executive Committee.

25 **Section 7. Endorsements**

1 Candidates for public office who seek endorsement by the LPRI shall be nominated
2 and chosen by simple majority vote at the convention preceding the election. All
3 votes for endorsement must include the option of “None of the Above” (NOTA) as the
4 last selection on the ballot.

5 **Section 8. Special Conventions**

6 A special convention may be called at any time with 30-days' notice, upon petition
7 signed by one-third of those who were LPRI members during the most recent annual
8 convention. The petition must state the purpose(s) for such a convention, and the
9 convention must adhere strictly to said purpose(s).

10 **Section 9. Quorum**

11 The quorum for an annual or special convention shall be 10 members eligible to vote,
12 as described in Article III

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14 **ARTICLE IX**

15 **Candidates for Public Office**

16 **Section 1. Eligibility**

17 A Rhode Island candidate for public office who wishes to run under the Libertarian
18 Party banner must be an LPRI Member, legally eligible to serve in the office, and
19 willing to accept the nomination.

20 **Section 2. Vacancies**

21 In the case of the death, resignation, disqualification or suspension of an LPRI
22 nominee; offices for which no candidate is chosen at the convention; and in
23 circumstances such as special elections, redistricting, etc. requiring new candidates to
24 be put forward, the Executive Committee shall, by a three-fifths (3/5) majority vote,

1 select LPRI candidates. A candidate’s nomination may be suspended for cause by
2 four-fifths (4/5) majority vote of the Executive Committee.

3 **Section 3. Conflicts of Interest**

4 “Fusion” and “cross-party” endorsements by the LPRI or LPRI endorsed candidates
5 are forbidden.

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ARTICLE X

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Delegates to National Conventions

9 Delegates to a Libertarian Party national convention shall be nominated and elected
10 by delegates to the LPRI annual convention. National convention delegates must be
11 LPRI members.

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ARTICLE XI

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Parliamentary Authority

15 The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised
16 shall govern LPRI meetings and/or conventions in all cases to which they apply, to the
17 extent that they are consistent with these Bylaws and any Special Rules of Order the
18 LPRI might adopt.

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ARTICLE XII

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Amending the Bylaws

22 These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at an annual
23 convention, or at a special convention where such an amendment is specified as a
24 purpose. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be submitted by any LPRI

1 member. The text of any such proposal must be made available to all LPRI members
2 at least 21 days before the convention at which it is to be considered.

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ARTICLE XIII

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Dissolution

6 In the event of dissolution of the LPRI, its net assets will be distributed to the national
7 Libertarian Party or its successor organization.

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