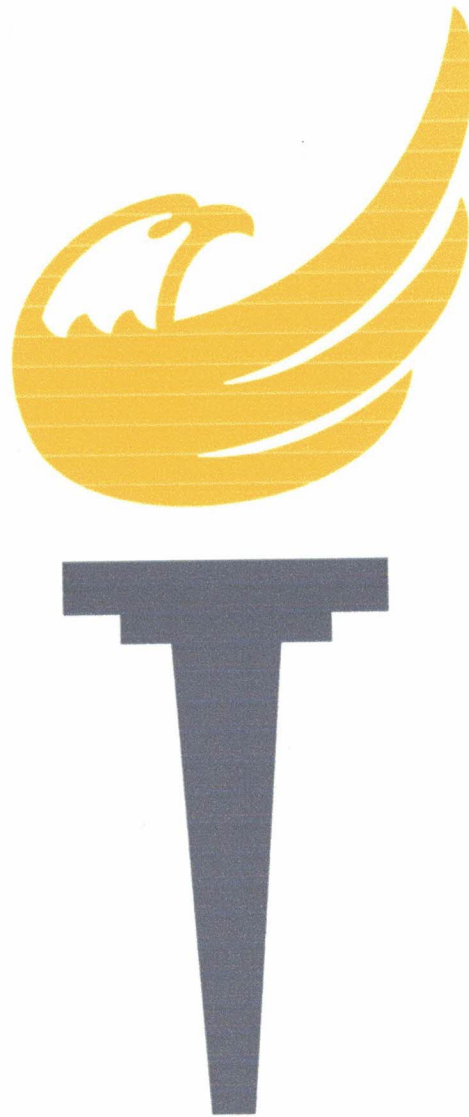


# LPTexas Platform

as amended at the 2022 State Convention



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>I. PERSONAL LIBERTY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>I.1 RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES</b>	<b>5</b>
I.1.a. Word and Thought	5
I.1.b. Defense of Person and Property	5
I.1.c. Individual Equality and the Law	5
I.1.d. Marriage, Partnerships, and Relationships	5
I.1.e. Rights of the Family	6
I.1.f. Family Welfare and Government	6
<b>I.2. PROPERTY RIGHTS</b>	<b>6</b>
I.2.a. Eminent Domain	6
I.2.b. Civil Asset Forfeiture	6
I.2.c. Property Rights - Homeowner Associations (HOA)	6
<b>I.3. GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH</b>	<b>7</b>
I.3.a. Medical Freedom	7
I.3.b. Health Care	7
I.3.c. Drug Policy	7
I.3.d. End of Life Choice	7
I.3.e. Reproductive Rights	7
I.3.f. Healthcare Mandates	7
<b>I.4. PRIVACY AND UNIVERSAL IDENTIFICATION</b>	<b>8</b>
I.4.a. Privacy	8
I.4.b. Police Powers - Searches	8
<b>I.5. ELECTIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
I.5.a. Verifiable Balloting	8
I.5.b. Party Affiliation	8
I.5.c. Primary Screen-out	8
I.5.d. Election Reform	9
<b>I.6. CRIME AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM</b>	<b>9</b>
I.6.a. Federal Prosecution Limitation	9
I.6.b. Judicial Reform (Grand Juries)	9
I.6.c. Judicial Reform (Informed Juries)	9
I.6.d. Vice and Morality Based Laws	9
I.6.e. Capital Punishment	9
<b>II ECONOMIC LIBERTY</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>II.1. TAXATION</b>	<b>10</b>
II.1.a. Gross Margin Tax	10
II.1.b. Property Tax	10

II.1.c. Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones	10
II.1.d. Occupational Licensing	10
II.1.e. Government Debt	11
II.2. EDUCATION	11
II.2.a. General Education	11
II.3. TRANSPORTATION	11
III. LIBERTY TO IMMIGRATE AND FREELY TRADE (LIFT)	11
IV. UNCATEGORIZED	12
IV.1. Perpetuities and Monopolies	12
IV.2. Nullification	12
IV.3. Texas Independence	12
V. OMISSIONS	12

# PREAMBLE

As the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas), we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their lives and no individuals are forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be eliminated from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized. Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest.

The following pages set forth our basic principles and some of the policies derived from them. Our goal is a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

## STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We, the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas), seek the maximum protection for the rights of all people against any violation, be it by other people, other nations, or our own government. We oppose the initiation of force, threat of harm, coercion, or fraud as a means of achieving personal, political, or social goals.

Every human being is born sole owner of his or her body and mind, free to live and act as he or she sees fit. It is our principle that, so long as a person does not violate the rights of others, he or she should be left free and unrestrained.

LPTexas opposes coercion of peaceful individuals. Governments may only exist for the sole purpose of defending the freedoms of people. These freedoms include the right to life; the right to liberty of thought, speech and action; and the right to property.

Government is, essentially, raw concentrated force, and thus, prone to abuse. It is established and tolerated only as the agent and servant of the people—not their master. The force of government must be used only in response to an attack, fraud, or other initiation of force against an individual, group or government by another individual, group or government.

Governments have no business interfering in voluntary and contractual relations amongst individuals. All people should be equal before the law, free to deal with one another in a free market, the only system compatible with the principle of individual rights.

Government should reflect the consent of the governed and not subject individuals to tyranny of the majority. Where it exists, government must be kept to the minimum necessary to protect the rights of individuals. LPTexas holds that all human interaction should be voluntary and consensual, in accordance with the Non-Aggression Principle.

# I. PERSONAL LIBERTY

## I.1 RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES

### I.1.a. Word and Thought

LPTexas upholds the ideal that government should not interfere nor discriminate in matters of personal conscience, such as religion, speech, creativity, or political activity.

We encourage citizens to practice their freedom of speech liberally in an open marketplace of ideas. Likewise, freedom of thought and belief is essential to a free society. No one may force their own beliefs on others through use of government power or support.

### I.1.b. Defense of Person and Property

The defense of person and property are inherent individual rights, and must not be restricted or impeded. Therefore, LPTexas supports the right of individuals to keep and bear arms in a manner consistent with the Non-Aggression Principle.

These rights have been infringed upon by the State, namely through Section 46 of the Texas Penal Code. Therefore, LPTexas calls for the repeal of this Code, specifically the following items:

Section 46.01.(6) Illegal knife

Section 46.02 Unlawful Carrying Weapons Section 46.03 Places Weapons Prohibited

Section 46.035 Unlawful Carrying of handgun by License Holder Section 46.04 Unlawful Possession of Firearm

Section 46.041 Unlawful Possession of Metal or Body Armor by Felon Section 46.05 Prohibited Weapons

### I.1.c. Individual Equality and the Law

LPTexas supports the full and complete protection of all people from biased legislation that violates individual rights. Government should not discriminate based upon gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, wealth, profession, creed, national origin, personal habits, or political affiliation. LPTexas believes government does not have legitimate authority to define or restrict personal relationships or associations to any group of citizens. We believe that "Hate Crime" legislation is unconstitutional, and that our nation has prospered under the concept of "equal protection under the law."

### I.1.d. Marriage, Partnerships, and Relationships

LPTexas recognizes the state should not have the privilege to define or regulate marriages, domestic partnerships, or personal relationships. Relationships between consenting adults, regardless of the number of participants, should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals in child custody, adoption, or other legal proceedings or government employment practices.

### I.1.e. Rights of the Family

LPTexas seeks to abolish legislation and policies that define what a family is.

LPTexas holds that legal rights of parents/guardians must not be infringed by the state based upon unsubstantiated claims and not without due process.

### I.1.f. Family Welfare and Government

LPTexas views government welfare programs as unnecessary as they drive out private charity organizations and replace the role of the family and of the community. As such, we generally oppose government charity programs. These programs can be better served by the local/private sector of society in the form of private charity.

LPTexas believes there is a great amount of wasted tax dollars in government programs due to mismanagement, fraud, and waste. We would seek to replace, where possible, all welfare programs by private charity organizations.

## I.2. PROPERTY RIGHTS

LPTexas stands firm with an individual's inherent right to own property; examples include land, buildings, belongings, and ownership of one's body and personhood. Property rights are subject to neither infringement nor interference by any individual or governmental entity.

### I.2.a. Eminent Domain

Under no circumstances should government have the power to force the transfer of land from a private entity to another against the will of the owner. LPTexas strongly opposes the use of eminent domain to establish toll roads, transportation corridors, and any other projects, public or private.

LPTexas supports vested property rights above, on, and below the surface, and there shall be no limitation by regulation, ordinance, or authority.

### I.2.b. Civil Asset Forfeiture

LPTexas calls for the elimination of civil asset forfeiture, which allows for the unjust seizure of property from the accused without due process, with the exception of criminal conviction, in which such property may only be used in restitution to the victims.

### I.2.c. Property Rights - Homeowner Associations (HOA)

LPTexas supports moving private homeowner associations to the current government code to protect private property owners from further violations of the constitution of this state and nation by such associations, until further remedies can be pursued. HOA's should only be incorporated by members residing within the property affected and governed by said HOA members. No HOA assessment fee shall be enacted without a simple majority of said members.

## I.3. GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH

### I.3.a. Medical Freedom

LPTexas supports the right of individuals to seek medical and healthcare of their choice. We support a free market, in which government does not restrict access to care. We oppose the use of government to force a medical procedure without the individual's consent.

### I.3.b. Health Care

Government should neither provide, control, nor require health care. LPTexas does not believe that people have a right to be provided with healthcare at other peoples' expense. We advocate the phasing out of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIPS programs. LPTexas supports free market based healthcare systems and health insurance. We oppose a "single payer" concept and the federal legislation known as the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Obama Care). LPTexas opposes any and all forms of unearned tax credits, tax subsidies, and tax penalties that are directed under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or "Obama Care."

### I.3.c. Drug Policy

LPTexas opposes the War on Drugs. Consistent with the principles of self-ownership, consenting adults ought not be restricted from partaking in activities that harm no one else. This includes possession, consumption and/or market transactions of substances for medicinal, recreational, or other purposes. Individuals seeking or providing medical treatment should not be subject to prosecution. Individuals seeking or providing treatment for addiction or offering Good Samaritan aid should not be subject to prosecution.

### I.3.d. End of Life Choice

LPTexas believes in self-ownership. LPTexas supports the inherent right of individuals to end their lives with dignity. LPTexas opposes the prosecution of physicians and loved ones who participate in consensual assisted suicide.

### I.3.e. Reproductive Rights

Recognizing that reproductive rights are a sensitive issue and that people can hold good-faith views on all sides, LPTexas believes that government should be kept out of the matter, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration. LPTexas does not condone that tax dollars be spent for any such medical cost.

### I.3.f. Healthcare Mandates

LPTexas believes that any government mandate requiring an individual to wear particular protective equipment or receive any specific medical treatment is a violation of that individual's personal liberties. LPTexas also respects the decision of private property owners to establish requirements to enter said property.

## I.4. PRIVACY AND UNIVERSAL IDENTIFICATION

### I.4.a. Privacy

LPTexas believes in an inherent right to privacy. As such, we oppose any legislation that restricts an individual's ownership and use of property (real, personal, or intellectual) or conduct of consenting adults while on their privately owned property. We also oppose any requirement to register property with a government entity as a condition of ownership, the exceptions being of real property and conveyances, for the sole purpose of documenting the holder of a clear title to said property. We hold that the only legitimate purpose of government is to protect our rights and property, and should never become a threat to the very things it was established to protect.

### I.4.b. Police Powers - Searches

LPTexas calls for the complete repeal of the USA-PATRIOT Act. We also call for the repeal of any and all laws which authorize the wiretapping or other search and seizure of private communications or property without a warrant issued in a free and independent court of law including, but not limited to, utilization of drones, NSA eavesdropping, internet data interception, etc.

LPTexas supports legislation or judicial rules that forbid the execution of "no-knock" warrants unless there is substantial probable cause with supportive evidence that they are necessary to avoid death or serious injury to an innocent person. We require that all warrants be presented to the subject for examination, with an original signature and a copy of the affidavit attached, and that the subject have an immediate opportunity to contact the court that issued the warrant to verify its validity.

## I.5. ELECTIONS

### I.5.a. Verifiable Balloting

LPTexas supports transparency in all publicly funded elections through verifiable ballot receipts and/or electronic tracking. We oppose any efforts to count the votes outside of public view.

### I.5.b. Party Affiliation

LPTexas opposes mandatory affiliation, at the time of voter registration, either as an Independent or with a political party. We support voting as a voluntary expression of the right to freedom of association. LPTexas opposes partisan labels on the ballot, as well as straight-ticket voting.

### I.5.c. Primary Screen-out

LPTexas supports the right of voters to decide who will be on the ballot. As such we support legislative efforts which would remove restrictions regarding eligibility to sign candidate and party petitions to appear on a ballot. All eligible voters should have the opportunity to voice their opinion. Their voice should not be silenced due to their participation in a primary election or their decision to sign an alternative candidate's petition.



### I.5.d. Election Reform

LPTexas supports election reform that does away with a two-party duopoly and the uncontrolled corporate and PAC influence that exists today. LPTexas believes that party primaries are not a function of the state, and rather are processes which should be self-funded. We also believe that all races should be decided by a more representative election process that includes a choice for None of The Above (NOTA). We support transparency of all monies utilized by or on behalf of any campaign or elected official.

## I.6. CRIME AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

### I.6.a. Federal Prosecution Limitation

Federal authority to prosecute crime is limited to only a few subjects: Treason; Counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States; Piracy and Felonies committed on the high Seas; Offenses against the Law of Nations; and violations of rights by state agents. We find no authority in the U.S. Constitution for extraterritorial criminal jurisdiction, including drug trafficking.

### I.6.b. Judicial Reform (Grand Juries)

LPTexas supports reviving direct citizen access to grand juries for presentation of public complaints and for private criminal prosecutions, in which the grand jury authorizes private prosecution by issuing the indictment to the complainant. An adequate number of grand juries should be impaneled to provide sufficient time to investigate and deliberate on each complaint.

LPTexas supports making grand juries independent from public prosecutors and encouraging them to exercise oversight on governmental operations within their district. We also support enabling grand juries to decide whether an official has acted within his jurisdiction, and remove immunity from suit for any who has not.

### I.6.c. Judicial Reform (Informed Juries)

LPTexas supports a juror's right to be fully informed of the potential sentence of a guilty verdict. Each juror should judge the facts in each case, as well as the merits of the law itself. Therefore, we support an amendment to the Oath of Jury reflecting the right, and duty, to nullify.

### I.6.d. Vice and Morality Based Laws

LPTexas supports the repeal of all Vice and Morality based laws that are against consenting adults and that do no harm to others. The State has no right to either criminalize or legalize the morality of adult individuals and their interaction with other consenting adults.

### I.6.e. Capital Punishment

LPTexas opposes the death penalty as a form of punishment by the state, as well as any other unnecessary use of force by state agents in response to criminal action.

# II ECONOMIC LIBERTY

## II.1. TAXATION

All persons are entitled to the fruits of their labor. As such, LPTexas opposes the imposition of income tax by any governmental entity. Additionally, we support a Constitutional amendment that would require at least two-thirds majority vote by each house of the legislature to increase the rate of any tax. Taxation should be used only for services that cannot be provided by free market solutions.

We seek to reduce the size and scope of government. The budgets of all levels of government must be balanced, and government spending reduced. Each existing tax must have a clearly specified purpose, and be subject to sunset at the end of each legislative session following its effective start date.

Expanding on these general principles concerning taxation, LPTexas holds the following positions on issues specific to the state of Texas:

### II.1.a. Gross Margin Tax

LPTexas seeks the complete repeal of the Gross Margins Tax adopted in 2006. Rather than a slow reduction in these franchise taxes, we call for the legislature to reduce the state's constitutional spending limits.

### II.1.b. Property Tax

LPTexas supports the elimination of all property taxes, as ad valorem tax cannot be assessed objectively, and inequitably harms the poor. Until such taxes are eliminated, we call for a moratorium on appraisal valuation increases. Additionally, we call for the election (subject to the Texas Election Code), not appointment, of all members of any Board of Directors of any Appraisal District. These elected positions would be limited to two consecutive two-year terms, until the positions are abolished along with the ad valorem taxes.

### II.1.c. Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones

Recognizing that Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) have been abused by many local governments as a means to enrich cronies, LPTexas calls for the abolishment of TIRZ districts.

### II.1.d. Occupational Licensing

The exercise of an occupation or profession should be regarded as a natural right, not subject to regulation or taxation by the government. Government's role in professional practices, if any, should be limited to protection against fraud or abuse. Therefore, LPTexas advocates for the repeal of all statutes regarding licensing occupations or professional practices.

### II.1.e. Government Debt

LPTexas supports a moratorium on bond issuance, Certificates of Obligation, and all other forms of government borrowing. Additionally, government-owned assets should be liquidated for the repayment of outstanding debt.

## II.2. EDUCATION

### II.2.a. General Education

LPTexas seeks to eliminate truancy laws and other barriers to school choice, and supports competition in education, in accordance with community standards. We believe that parents/guardians should have the authority to decide where and how their children are educated. We support measures to restore decision-making regarding education to parents, guardians, teachers, and/or local education boards.

LPTexas rejects any involvement of the federal government in our local school systems, including funding.

LPTexas seeks a nonpartisan education funding policy that would provide equitable use of state funds to eliminate waste and decrease bureaucracy, with the ultimate goal of voluntary funding.

## II.3. TRANSPORTATION

LPTexas supports eliminating barriers to free market construction and maintenance of infrastructure. Let market demand and willingness to fund dictate which routes are developed. LPTexas supports legislation that would forbid tolls on any highway right-of-way which was obtained with tax dollars, or through the use of eminent domain, or condemnation. LPTexas upholds the right of private enterprise to construct and operate private toll roads, provided that such private toll roads are established through free market transactions and private negotiation for purchase or lease of property.

## III. LIBERTY TO IMMIGRATE AND FREELY TRADE (LIFT)

LPTexas advocates for the freedom of individuals to live, work, study, and travel, with respect for others' rights and freedoms, without government impediment.

LPTexas supports the free, fair, and voluntary exchange of currency, goods, labor, services, and ideas, whereby all may prosper through free market principles and individual responsibility.

## IV. UNCATEGORIZED

### IV.1. Perpetuities and Monopolies

LPTexas supports the abolition of all existing government enforced monopolies, whether government or private corporations.

### IV.2. Nullification

LPTexas supports nullification of unconstitutional federal acts by all sworn to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America from all enemies foreign and domestic. Those who can and should engage in nullification and interposition include our Texas governor, legislature, and law enforcement officials, and especially our constitutional county sheriffs.

### IV.3. Texas Independence

LPTexas fully supports the rights of the people to alter their form of government. As the U.S. federal government is increasingly expanding its influence well beyond its Constitutional authority and clearly violating citizens' rights as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, the right of the people of Texas to alter their form of government, as stated in Article I Section 2 of the Texas Constitution, must be acknowledged by allowing Texans to have an honest and frank discussion on the merits of independence and being allowed to vote accordingly to reassert Texas' Independence.

## V. OMISSIONS

Our silence about any other particular government law, rule, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, machination, or any other matter, should not be construed to imply approval, disapproval, or indifference.

# The Libertarian Party of Texas Rules

Apr 10, 2022



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Article I. Statement of Principles.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Article II. Definitions</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Article III. Name, Duration, Purposes and Membership.</b>	<b>5</b>
III.a. Name.	5
III.b. Bylaws.	5
III.c. Duration.	6
III.d. Purposes.	6
III.e. Membership.	6
III.e.1. Voting Membership Eligibility.	6
III.e.2. Voting Membership.	6
III.e.3. Termination of Voting Membership.	7
III.e.4. Lifetime Members	7
III.e.5. No dues for Voting Members.	7
III.e.6. Other Classes of Members.	7
III.e.7. Membership in General.	7
III.e.8. Nondiscrimination.	7
<b>Article IV. Party Organization.</b>	<b>7</b>
IV.a. State Executive Committee.	7
IV.a.1. Composition.	8
IV.a.2. Terms of Office.	8
IV.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.	8
IV.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements	8
IV.a.5. Method of Selection.	9
IV.a.6. Duties.	9
IV.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting	10
IV.a.8. Removal of Committee Members	10
IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.	10
IV.a.8.ii. Removal by Recall.	10
IV.a.8.iii. Removal for Opposition	11
IV.a.8.iv. Removal for Cause.	11
IV.a.9. Filling Vacancies.	11
IV.b Judicial Committee	12
IV.b.1. Composition and Quorum	12
IV.b.2. Qualifications	12
IV.b.3. Vacancies	12
IV.b.4. Jurisdiction.	12
IV.b.5. Organization and Process	13

IV.c. County Affiliates.	13
IV.c.1. County Governing Authority.	13
IV.c.2. Affiliation of Counties	13
IV.c.2.i. Establishment of Provisional Affiliate and Appointing a County Chair	13
IV.c.2.ii Transition from Provisional Affiliate	14
IV.c.3. Precinct Chairs.	14
IV.c.4. Automatic Disaffiliation for Failure to Hold a County Convention.	14
IV.c.5. County Disaffiliation.	14
IV.d. District and Precinct Executive Committees.	15
IV.d.1. District Executive Committees.	15
IV.d.2. Commissioner’s Precincts and Justice Precincts Executive Committees.	15
IV.e. General Rules for the State Executive Committee.	16
IV.e.1. Governing Authority.	16
IV.e.2. Powers of the State Executive Committee.	16
<b>Article V. Party Conventions.</b>	<b>16</b>
V.a. Precinct Conventions.	16
V.b. County Conventions.	17
V.b.1. County Conventions General	17
V.b.2. State Delegates and Alternates from a County Affiliate.	18
V.c. District Conventions.	18
V.d. State Conventions.	19
V.d.1. Composition and When Held.	19
V.d.2. Apportionment of Delegates and Alternates.	19
V.d.3. Seating of Delegates and Alternates.	19
V.d.4. Committees of the Convention.	20
V.d.4.i. Committees Described.	20
V.d.4.ii. Membership of Committees.	20
V.d.4.iii. Credentials Committee	20
V.d.4.iv. Committee Procedures in General.	20
V.d.4.v. Right to Submit Proposals to Committees.	21
V.d.4.vi. Convening of committees.	21
V.d.4.vii. Committee Reports.	21
V.d.4.viii. Procedures for Platform Committee Reports.	21
V.d.5. Order of Business.	22
V.d.6. Functionaries of the State Convention.	23
V.d.7. Voting in District Caucuses.	23
V.d.8. Resolutions, Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.	23
V.d.9. Election of Presidential Electors.	24
V.d.10. Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Conventions.	24
V.d.10.i. National Delegate Eligibility	24
V.d.10.ii. Number of Delegates.	24

V.d.10.iii. National Alternates for National Delegates.	24
V.d.10.iii.A. National Alternates Election	24
V.d.10.iv. Selection by State Executive Committee.	24
V.d.10.v. Finality of Delegate Selection.	25
V.d.11. Opportunities for Expressing Disagreements with Platform.	25
V.e. General Rules Governing Party Conventions.	25
V.e.1. Governing Authority.	25
V.e.2. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions.	25
V.e.3. Quorum.	25
V.e.4. Voting Procedures.	26
V.e.5. Limits on Discussion.	26
V.e.6. Petition to Place Item on Agenda.	26
V.e.7. Nominations and Elections.	27
V.e.7.i. Filing Procedures.	27
V.e.7.ii. Nominating Procedures.	27
V.e.7.iii. Exclusions from Eligibility for Nomination to Public and Party Office.	27
V.e.7.iv. Declining to Nominate or Elect Candidate for Office.	27
V.e.7.v. Majority Required	27
V.e.7.vi. Right to Not Elect Candidates.	27
V.e.8. Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office.	28
V.e.8.i. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.	28
V.e.8.ii. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.	28
V.e.9. News Media Right to Attend.	29
<b>Article VI. Adoption, Status, Amendment and Publication of Rules.</b>	<b>29</b>
VI.a. Effective Date of Original Rules.	29
VI.b. Permanent Amendments.	29
VI.c. Temporary Amendments.	29
VI.d. Statement of Principles of the Party Bylaws Listing.	29
VI.e. Effective Date of Permanent Amendments.	30
VI.f. Permanence and Superiority of Rules.	30
VI.f.1. Superiority.	30
VI.f.2. Permanence.	30
VI.g. Publication of Rules and Amendments.	30
<b>Certification.</b>	<b>30</b>

## **Article I. Statement of Principles.**

We, the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas), seek the maximum protection for the rights of all people against any violation, be it by other people, other nations, or our own government. We oppose the initiation of force, threat of harm, coercion, or fraud as a means of achieving personal, political, or social goals.



Every human being is born sole owner of his or her body and mind, free to live and act as he or she sees fit. It is our principle that, so long as a person does not violate the rights of others, he or she should be left free and unrestrained.

LPTexas opposes coercion of peaceful individuals. Governments may only exist for the sole purpose of defending the freedoms of people. These freedoms include the right to life; the right to liberty of thought, speech and action; and the right to property.

Government is, essentially, raw concentrated force, and thus, prone to abuse. It is established and tolerated only as the agent and servant of the people-- not their master. The force of government must be used only in response to an attack, fraud, or other initiation of force against an individual, group or government by another individual, group or government.

Governments have no business interfering in voluntary and contractual relations amongst individuals. All people should be equal before the law, free to deal with one another in a free market, the only system compatible with the principle of individual rights.

Government should reflect the consent of the governed and not subject individuals to tyranny of the majority. Where it exists, government must be kept to the minimum necessary to protect the rights of individuals. LPTexas holds that all human interaction should be voluntary and consensual, in accordance with the Non-Aggression Principle.

## **Article II. Definitions**

The following definitions will apply throughout all Party governing documents.

“Affiliation certificate” means a document that may be requested by a person affiliating with LPTexas which adheres to Sec. 162.009 of Texas Election Code.

“County convention” means the convention in a county described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c).

“Declaration of vacancy” means a document describing the current circumstances and history that led to an office being declared vacant

“Delegation leader” means a member of a delegation whom a delegation has selected to represent them.

“District convention” means the convention in a government defined political district required to be held by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (b).

“District representative” means a SLEC member that represents a Texas senatorial district.

“General election” means an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs on fixed dates at which offices of the federal, state, and county governments are elected.

“Gubernatorial election” means the general election to elect a governor for a full term.

“LPTexas” and “Party” mean the Libertarian Party of Texas

“Party office” means any specified position to which a person can be elected to within the Party.

“Party officer” means a statewide official of LPTexas listed as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

“Plank” means an issue statement listed on the Party platform that is contained under its own unique heading identifier.

“Precinct convention” means a convention of a voting precinct in the county as described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c)

“Public office” means office elected by the public or appointed by the state or county.

“Qualified Participant” means a delegate or alternate currently able to vote and conduct business at a convention of the Party.

“Regional caucus” means a meeting of a group of qualified participants that are registered to vote within a given region.

“State Convention” means the convention of LPTexas described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (a).

“Unaffiliated county” means a county that is not recognized by LPTexas as being affiliated.

“Voter registration certificate”, also known as “voter registration”, “voter registration card”, or “voter ID” means the documentation of voter registration issued by the state of Texas.

“Voting Member” means a class of membership as defined in II.e.2. Voting Membership.

### **Article III. Name, Duration, Purposes and Membership.**

#### **III.a. Name.**

The name of this organization shall be the “Libertarian Party of Texas”, hereinafter referred to as the “Party”.

#### **III.b. Bylaws.**

These bylaws shall be considered the Rules of the Party for the purposes of Texas Election Code (Title 10, Subtitle A, Chapter 163).

#### **III.c. Duration.**

The duration of this organization shall be perpetual.

### **III.d. Purposes.**

The purpose for which this Party is organized is to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Party's Statement of Principles by:

1. Nominating and supporting Libertarian candidates for public offices;
2. Entering into political information activities;
3. Engaging the Texas Legislature to move state law in alignment with the Party's Statement of Principles and platform;
4. Establishing and supporting county Libertarian county affiliates across the state;
5. Building Party infrastructure, staff, and support systems as needed to fulfill these purposes; and
6. Affiliating with the national Libertarian Party.

### **III.e. Membership.**

#### **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;
- 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.

#### **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, the person 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.

#### **III.e.3. Termination of Voting Membership.**

A person's Voting Membership shall terminate if the person:

- i. submits written declaration terminating his/her Voting Membership to any Party official;
- ii. ceases to be eligible to affiliate with the Libertarian Party of Texas;

- iii. ceases to be eligible for Voting Membership under III.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility;  
or
- iv. fails to affiliate with the Party on the date of the next Precinct Conventions.

#### **III.e.4. Lifetime Members**

The SLEC shall manage policies pertaining to Lifetime Memberships that will exist for as long as a person is alive. The donation amount required to become a Lifetime Member shall be managed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the SLEC but not fall below \$1836.

Such Lifetime Members shall be recognized as such, and shall be granted any benefits, perquisites, or entitlements as may be established by LPTexas from time to time for as long as they live. Further, each such Lifetime Member shall receive a document signed by all then-current officers of LPTexas certifying their Lifetime Member status.

This section of the bylaws or any bylaws alteration pertaining to the removal of the Lifetime Member class must be approved by a state convention with three-fourths (3/4) vote.

#### **III.e.5. No dues for Voting Members.**

No dues shall be required for a person to become a Voting Member.

#### **III.e.6. Other Classes of Members.**

The SLEC may create, eliminate or modify other classes of Membership. Such classes may or may not require Voting Membership, and may or may not require payment of such contributions or dues as the SLEC shall deem proper. Such classes shall not grant any preference or privilege regarding the strength of votes or the manner of voting, or in election or appointment to office.

#### **III.e.7. Membership in General.**

All Voting Members, and all Members of other classes created by the SLEC, shall be considered Members of the Party.

#### **III.e.8. Nondiscrimination.**

No eligible person shall be denied or restricted his or her rights of Membership and participation.

### **Article IV. Party Organization.**

#### **IV.a. State Executive Committee.**

The state Executive Committee hereinafter shall be referred to as "SLEC" which stands for "State Libertarian Executive Committee".

##### **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. Member(s) of the National Committee representing Texas *ex officio* with voice but no vote.

#### **IV.a.2. Terms of Office.**

The term of office of all members of the SLEC shall be from the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are elected until the final adjournment of the next state Convention.

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

- i. All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
- ii. All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be residents of the region or political subdivision they represent, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of such region or political subdivision shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
- iii. No person shall hold more than one membership on the SLEC at the same time.
- iv. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without having submitted an application to the Party Secretary that indicates interest in filling the position, and verifies Voting Member status. SLEC shall maintain a policy concerning the distribution of applicant information to election participants.
- v. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing the most recent Party Platform, noting any disagreements with planks, and then submitting it to the state Party Secretary. This document shall be made available to all participants voting on the election.
- vi. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing agreement to the Libertarian pledge, "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

#### **IV.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements**

The following items shall be completed within twenty (20) days of taking office or the member shall be removed and their seat be declared vacant:

- i. Each member shall take and sign the following oath, to be submitted to the Secretary, before serving on the SLEC: "I swear (or affirm) to uphold the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Texas, to fulfill my duties in accordance with the party bylaws, and to represent the Statement of Principles and policies to the best of my ability when acting in my duties as a representative of the Party."
- ii. Each member shall be required to sign and submit to the Secretary the following statement before serving on the SLEC: "I have reviewed the party bylaws, SLEC bylaws, and party policy documents. I acknowledge my responsibility to understand, follow, and maintain such documents in accordance with the LPTexas bylaws and policies."
- iii. Each member shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, as maintained by the SLEC, before serving on the SLEC. Any existing confidentiality agreements or related policies may be amended at a state convention.

#### **IV.a.5. Method of Selection.**

- i The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer 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 representatives from that State Senatorial District.

#### **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.
- iii. The Secretary shall:
  - 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. The Treasurer shall:
  - 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.
- v. The District Representatives shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
- 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.

#### **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; 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.

#### **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. Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

##### **IV.a.8.ii. Removal by Recall.**

A "Recall Petition" is a document containing a set of valid signatures that shall be clearly marked as a "recall", and state that "By affixing your signature and information to this Recall Petition, you call for the SLEC Officer or District Representative indicated on this form be removed from the SLEC immediately." Each signer shall print their name as it appears on their voter registration, signature, county, date of birth, and voter identification number. The signer must also include a phone number or email address to aid in verification questions.

The Officers shall designate a person or persons to collect the Recall Petition and verify that it adheres to the signature requirement. Upon verification the document shall be made available to the SLEC, and the listed SLEC member shall be immediately removed from their position.

To remove any SLEC member, including any Officer, one of the following processes shall be used to obtain a set of valid signatures for the Recall Petition:

- A. Obtaining a Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members that were registered as attending at the election of an officer or SLEC member according to the roll recorded in the relevant minutes, or
- B. Obtaining a formal Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members within the Party in the case of an officer, or the district in the case of a SLEC member. The full roster of Voting Members in each county involved in the recall must be made available to the state Party for verification or the signatures from that county shall be invalid.

##### **IV.a.8.iii. Removal for Opposition**

No member of the SLEC may use any resources associated with or carrying the name of the Libertarian Party to promote or endorse any candidate from another political party. Such members in violation of this bylaw may be removed at the discretion of the SLEC by a simple majority vote of the entire SLEC.

#### **IV.a.8.iv. Removal for Cause.**

- A. A member of the SLEC may be removed for causes other than repeated absences from meetings by a three-fourths vote of the other members of the Committee.
- B. Procedures set forth in the Party's parliamentary authority for disciplinary action shall be adhered to in order to protect the rights of both the accused and of the organization, including:
  - 1. the appointment of an investigating committee;
  - 2. the adoption of a resolution preferring specific charges;
  - 3. setting a special executive committee meeting for a trial; and
  - 4. the holding of a trial of the accused.

#### **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.
- ii. Voting Members shall be eligible to be nominated only after they have met all requirements set forth in IV.a.3 (Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members).
- iii. 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.
- iv. The State Chair shall notify and communicate relevant qualification documentation to all Eligible Counties and to the SLEC for the nominations.
- v. 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).
- vi. 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).
- vii. 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.
- viii. Each cast ballot shall be submitted to the State Secretary, or their designees.
- ix. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all eligible counties. 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.



## **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 the chair of the Judicial Committee from among themselves. Any five (5) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. 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 currently not nor have been a member of the SLEC (regardless of voting status) for the previous one (1) year.
- ii. Is not currently a member of any committee of 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.
- v. Have been a Voting Member for at least four (4) consecutive years at the time of their election or appointment.

### **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

### **IV.b.4. Jurisdiction.**

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 limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:

- i. Censuring a Voting Member
- ii. Removal of a member of the SLEC
- iii. Qualification of State Executive Committee Members (III.a.3.)
- iv. Failure to hold a convention (III.b.4.)
- v. County governance (III.b.1.)

#### **IV.b.5. Organization and Process**

The Judicial Committee shall elect a Chair, who shall receive all appeals and petitions 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. If the Chair accepts the appeal or petition, the Chair shall set a hearing date within ten (10) days of receiving the request. 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 has not accepted or rejected the appeal or petition within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter at hand.

The Judicial Committee shall provide at least ten (10) days notice to each of the parties to a hearing, unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Committee and the participants. The Judicial Committee shall hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of receiving a request, unless otherwise specified. All parties to a hearing shall have the right to present their case before the Committee.

The Judicial Committee shall provide a written ruling within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the hearing to all participants and SLEC. The minutes of all Judicial Committee proceedings shall be reported to the SLEC at the next normal 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 matter at hand.

#### **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 designate a procedure for filling 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 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.

##### **IV.c.2. Affiliation of Counties**

###### **IV.c.2.i. Establishment of Provisional Affiliate and Appointing a County Chair**

The SLEC shall maintain a policy to establish a provisional county affiliate in any currently unaffiliated county. This policy shall include a process for vetting and appointing a County Chair for the provisional affiliate and assigning the provisional affiliate a set of bylaws, which shall include rules pertaining to establishment of a County Executive Committee.

#### **IV.c.2.ii Transition from Provisional Affiliate**

A county affiliate shall no longer be considered provisional when it has successfully conducted a County Convention and submitted all records thereof to the State Party.

SLEC retains the right to disaffiliate a provisional county affiliate at any time for any reason by 2/3 vote. A provisional county affiliate shall be considered disaffiliated when all recognized members of the CEC have resigned.

#### **IV.c.3. Precinct Chairs.**

In counties without local rules specifying a procedure for selecting Precinct Chairs, the County Executive Committee shall select the Precinct Chairs. Within three (3) days of the election or appointment of a Precinct Chair, the name, address, phone number and email address of said Chair shall be sent to the State Chair.

#### **IV.c.4. Automatic Disaffiliation for Failure to Hold a County Convention.**

Any County Affiliate that, for whatever reason, fails to hold a County Convention in accordance with these bylaws or who fails to deliver within ten (10) days after a County Convention the county convention documents to the State Chair, or their designees, shall be disaffiliated.

The county convention documents of a County Convention are:

- i. A roster of participants in the County Convention;
- ii. A list of elected CEC members;
- iii. A copy of current county bylaws if updated;
- iv. A list of candidates, if any, nominated by the convention and certified in accordance with Texas Election Code Sec. 181.068;
- v. The minutes of the county convention;
- vi. A list of elected district delegates, if any; and
- vii. A list of elected state delegates and alternates, if any.

The presiding officer of the County Convention shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the voter registration ID, date of birth, full name, address, and email address or phone number for any persons listed on any roster or list required by this section.

Failure to deliver this information could result in rejection or disqualification as indicated in other sections of these bylaws.

#### **IV.c.5. County Disaffiliation.**

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

The state Party may disaffiliate a county using the following process:

- i. A SLEC member moving to disaffiliate a county shall notify the members of the SLEC in writing no less than thirty (30) days before such a vote is to occur.

- ii. The State Secretary shall notify the County Executive Committee of the county to be disaffiliated at least twenty (20) days prior to such a vote.
- iii. A representative of the county to be disaffiliated may be chosen by the CEC of that county and shall be granted speaking privileges during consideration of the motion to disaffiliate.
- iv. At least three-fourths (3/4) of the entire body of the SLEC must vote in the affirmative to disaffiliate the county.
- v. From the date of the SLEC vote, a Voting Member registered to vote in the county to be disaffiliated has ten (10) days to initiate an appeal. If an appeal is not initiated in the time given, the disaffiliation becomes effective immediately. An appeal shall be resolved by the following:
  - A. The Secretary shall send out an email appeal notice to the county chairs of all affiliated counties once an appeal has been initiated.
  - B. County affiliates may vote to reverse the decision of the SLEC by majority vote of the CEC of each affiliated county.
  - C. Each county that was affiliated when the appeal notice was given shall be allowed to vote.
  - D. Each county shall submit a record of its vote with how each CEC member voted to the Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of the Secretary's email appeal notice to all affiliated counties.
  - E. Each voting county shall be allocated the same number of votes as delegates allocated in the most recent state convention, or the minimum allocation in the case the county was not affiliated as of the last state convention.
  - F. A majority of all possible votes is required to reverse the decision of the SLEC.

#### **IV.d. District and Precinct Executive Committees.**

##### **IV.d.1. District Executive Committees.**

Whenever these bylaws or the actions of the SLEC require action by a District Executive Committee, the membership of any such District Executive Committee shall consist of the County Chairs for counties wholly or partially contained within that district.

- i. If at the time a District Executive Committee is required there is no District Chair, the State Chair shall appoint one of the District Executive Committee members to be the District Chair.
- ii. The District Executive Committee may, by majority vote of the entire committee, replace the current District Chair with another member of the District Executive Committee.
- iii. On the day following the date of district conventions, all District Chair positions shall be considered vacant.

##### **IV.d.2. Commissioner's Precincts and Justice Precincts Executive Committees.**

The Precinct Chairs within a Commissioner's Precinct, Justice Precinct or other such local entity within a county shall constitute the District Executive Committee and such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Committee.

#### **IV.e. General Rules for the State Executive Committee.**

##### **IV.e.1. Governing Authority.**

- i. These rules shall govern the conduct of all meetings and proceedings of the SLEC of the Party.
- ii. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised are hereby adopted by reference to govern all meetings and proceedings of the SLEC of the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with state law, these Rules, or any special rules of order the SLEC may adopt.
- iii. SLEC shall maintain bylaws that govern its own action. Bylaws of SLEC may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of SLEC or by a majority vote of the state convention. Where Bylaws of SLEC conflict with these Rules, state law, or federal law the Bylaws of SLEC shall yield.
- iv. The SLEC may make additional policies for its conduct so long as said additional policies do not conflict with these rules.

##### **IV.e.2. Powers of the State Executive Committee.**

- i. In compliance with these Rules and the directives of Conventions, the SLEC of the Party shall carry on the activities of the Party at its level between Conventions, and shall have the control and management of all Party affairs, properties, and funds at its level.
- ii. The State Executive Committee shall maintain policies to establish any staff as may be deemed necessary to assist the Party in its function. The State Executive Committee shall maintain a general policy to govern the removal of staff.
- iii. The SLEC shall decide whether to hold a Primary Election, and make appropriate notification thereof.
- iv. The SLEC may move the convention from a physical location to an online location, for good cause in an emergency situation which threatens the possibility of an in-person state convention, by a two-thirds vote of the entire body.
- v. The State Executive Committee may reject a county's bylaws in their entirety for cause. The county must be notified of the time and place of a vote to reject county bylaws at least 20 days before a vote can be taken. A designated representative from the county will be given speaking privileges during any debate on the issue.

#### **Article V. Party 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. A Precinct Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
  - i. it meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.062 through 181.067;
  - ii. 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. 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. A County Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
  - A. 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. 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. 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.