

# Convention Rules of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina

As revised in Convention May 2025

## Rule 1. Order of Business

The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Reading of Resolutions
5. Adjunct Committee Report
6. Resolutions
7. Nomination of candidates
8. Election of Party Officers and At-Large members of the Executive Committee (odd-numbered years only or to fill a vacant position in even-numbered years)
9. Election of Judicial Committee
10. Election of Delegates to the Libertarian National Convention (even numbered years) and Election of Presidential Electors (presidential election years).
11. Other business

## Rule 2. Voting Eligibility

1. The Secretary shall report the number of delegates registered in attendance and eligible to vote directly after the opening of the first business session and at the beginning of each succeeding session.
2. All delegates shall be eligible to vote on all matters. In order to vote on a given matter, a delegate must be present on the floor at the time the vote is taken. Each delegate present shall have one vote.
3. Duly selected alternates may be freely substituted for any members of their delegation, except for ex officio delegates, who are temporarily or permanently absent from the floor, provided the procedure has been clearly specified by the affiliate party in advance of the Convention and the Secretary has been provided with lists of the

affiliate party's delegates and alternates as well as a copy of the affiliate party's rules governing substitutions.

4. An alternate, upon certification by the Secretary, may function as a delegate whenever a delegate of the same county has not been registered in attendance. This status shall continue until the absent delegate registers in attendance. If the affiliate party has made no provision for filling delegate vacancies, the alternate substitute shall be decided by drawing lots.
5. If the affiliate party has made no other provision, an alternate may temporarily vote in place of a delegate from the same county while they have the written consent of that delegate; however, no delegate may cast more than one vote on a question. All members must wear the identification badge issued upon registration in order to be admitted to the Convention hall.

### **Rule 3. Voting Procedure and Motions**

1. On all matters, voting will be by voice vote except in the election of Party Officers, At-Large Executive Committee members, Judicial Committee members, or the election of Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention, and the nomination of candidates. If ten or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a counted vote will be held.
2. For any election, either a paper, mechanical, or electronic voting system chosen and approved by the Convention Committee may be used. The Convention Committee shall properly notify the members of the LPNC, before the convention starts, what system or systems may be used.
3. The Chair may require any motion offered from the Convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover, and submitted to the Secretary.

### **Rule 4. Adjunct Committee Procedures**

1. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.
2. One-fifth (1/5) of the members of an Adjunct Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any recommendation of the committee.

### **Rule 5. Debating and Voting - Adjunct Committee Reports**

1. Any addition to or alteration of the Platform must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Convention delegates present and voting. Any plank may, however, be deleted by a simple majority. Any addition to or alteration of the Convention Rules must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present and voting.
  - 1.1. An addition or alteration to the Bylaws becomes effective immediately.

- 1.2. An addition or alteration to the Convention Rules becomes effective at the close of the Convention.
2. An Adjunct Committee, having met before each regular Convention to prepare a report containing its recommendations on the subject proper to the committee (as defined by the Bylaws) shall set forth the order in which its recommendations shall be considered.
  - 2.1. The Chair of the Adjunct Committee shall submit the report to the State Chair at least 30 days before the State Convention convenes.
  - 2.2. The Secretary shall make the report available to LPNC members and Convention delegates at least 20 days prior to the convening of the Convention.
3. The Chair of the Adjunct Committee, or the Chair's designee, shall present the report of the Committee to the Convention. Upon a motion by any delegate, the Convention may approve the entire committee report, or any number of the committee's recommendations without further debate.
4. For those recommendations not approved under Rule 5, Section 3, the Adjunct Committee Chair, or designee, shall read the recommendation and may have up to two (2) minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposal. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - 4.1. The Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to discussion and restricted amendment for a period of time. For a Bylaws and Convention rules recommendation, this period is fifteen (15) minutes. For a Platform recommendation, this period is twenty (20) minutes. These periods include any time used to debate amendments.
  - 4.2. During discussion of a committee recommendation, any motion to amend is restricted in two ways:
    - 4.2.1. Before any discussion of the amendment, an immediate vote is held on whether the motion to amend should be accepted for consideration, a simple majority being required for acceptance, and;
    - 4.2.2. The time limit for discussion of the amendment, if accepted for consideration, is five (5) minutes.
  - 4.3. If debate ceases during the time allotted or a motion to call the question is adopted, the Chair shall then call for a vote on the recommendation.
  - 4.4. If the allotted time expired during debate, the Convention Chair shall allow for a motion to extend time, such motion requiring a two-thirds (2/3) majority for approval. Failing such time extension, a vote will be taken on whether to bring the recommendation (as amended, if this is the case) to a final vote. If a

majority vote is in favor of immediate consideration, the vote to accept or reject the recommendation must follow immediately. If a majority vote is against immediate consideration, the proposed recommendation shall be tabled for later consideration after all other recommendations receiving a favorable majority vote from the Adjunct Committee have been considered.

5. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - 5.1. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall each have two (2) minutes to present their views.
  - 5.2. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five (5) minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After (5) five minutes, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described in Rule 5, Section 4.
6. After all Adjunct Committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments. The delegate may take up to two (2) minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Rule 5, Section 4.
7. Finally, if time permits, proposals which were considered by the Adjunct Committee but which received an unfavorable vote from a majority of the Committee, may be considered, with a spokesperson for the minority position giving the reasons in favor and the Adjunct Committee Chair or other representative of the majority position giving the reasons why it was voted down, before the proposal is taken to the floor for debate.
8. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by ten percent (10%) of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the Convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to and report their findings and reasons to the Convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Convention.

## **Rule 6. Resolutions**

1. Resolutions must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
2. Resolutions must not be in conflict with the Statement of Principles. Challenges of such adopted Resolutions believed by ten percent (10%) of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the Convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for

consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the Resolution is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to, and report their findings and reasons to the Convention. If the Resolution is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Convention.

3. Resolutions must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at the convening of the State Convention.

## **Rule 7. Election of Party Officers and Executive Committee**

1. Nominations for Party Officers, At-Large Executive Committee members, Judicial Committee members, and Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be from the floor.
2. Nominations for each seat may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided they have the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:
  - 2.1. Chair: one two (2) minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;
  - 2.2. All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speech.
3. Elections for party officers shall be conducted using the Instant Runoff Ranked Choice Voting method. Each delegate may submit a ballot with each candidate numbered with one being the first choice and each choice subsequently numbered, in order of preference. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.
4. The state convention shall elect delegates to the Libertarian National Convention by approval voting. State convention delegates may cast a vote for any nominee. Nominees receiving the most votes shall be elected delegates to the LNC, up to the total national convention delegates allotted to the state by the national Libertarian Party. The remaining nominees shall be elected LNC alternate delegates and ranked according to the number of votes they receive, up to the total number of alternate delegates allotted to the state by the national party. Alternate delegates are ranked in accordance with the bylaws. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.
5. If there are as many or fewer candidates as allotted positions, the body may move directly to elect all nominated candidates by a counted vote as a body. The slate of candidates must receive a majority of the counted vote. If the slate of candidates fails to be elected with a majority, the convention shall vote, by ballot, to approve or reject each of the nominees individually.

## **Rule 8. Nomination of Candidates**

1. Candidate nominations shall be from the floor.
2. Nominations for each office may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided they have the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:
  - 2.1. Governor and US Senator: one two-minute nominating speech, two thirty (30) second seconding speeches;
  - 2.2. All others: one one (1) minute nominating speech, one thirty (30) second seconding speech.
3. Elections for the Party's nominee for single seat offices shall be conducted by a majority vote. If no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.
4. For multi-seat offices, each delegate may cast a ballot with one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. The candidates receiving the most number of votes cast shall be nominated. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.

## **Rule 9. None of the Above**

1. Attending delegates to the Convention may vote for "None of the Above" (NOTA) for any position on the Executive Committee, or Judicial Committee. Should NOTA be selected for any Party positions, that position shall be declared vacant, and none of the losing candidates for that position may be selected to fill the vacancy for that term of office.
2. "None of the Above" (NOTA) will be considered a candidate on the ballot.
3. In any election mentioned in Rule 9, section 1 with multiple winners, delegates can vote for NOTA1, NOTA2, NOTA3... up to the number of positions in the election. Delegates should prioritize voting NOTA on the lowest suffix.

## **Rule 10. Amendments to the Rules**

The Convention Rules may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at a Regular Convention.