

# Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin

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## Article I. Name.

The Name of the association shall be the “Libertarian Party of Wisconsin,” hereinafter referred to as the “Party” or the “LPWI.”

## Article II. Purposes and Principles

### Section II.01 Purpose.

The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles such as those in the “Statement of Principles” of the national Libertarian Party by:

- a. Promoting candidates for local and statewide public office within Wisconsin.
- b. Working for the election of the national Libertarian Party Nominees for President and Vice-President
- c. Promoting, chartering, and coordinating affiliate parties throughout the State of Wisconsin.
- d. Conducting informational and educational activities.

### Section II.02 Principles.

The Party shall operate on the principle that it will take no position or action inconsistent with the “Statement of Principles” of the national Libertarian Party.

## Article III. Membership

### Section III.01 Qualifications for membership.

Membership in the Party is not to be restricted by a person’s race, creed, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

### Section III.02 Classes of Membership.

The Executive Committee shall establish the classes of membership. The classes of membership will consist of:

- a. **Voting members.** Requirements for voting members shall include:
  - i. The member is in good standing. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. The Party may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
  - ii. The member is a resident of the state of Wisconsin.

- b. **Non-voting members.** Requirements for non-voting members shall include:
  - i. The member is not a resident of the state of Wisconsin.
  - ii. The member is in good standing

### Section III.03 Rights of Members.

All voting members of the party who are in good standing may have the following:

- a. Full participation in all functions, meetings, and events sponsored by the LPWI.
- b. Right to speak/debate on the floor of the convention.
- c. All other rights and privileges not otherwise outlined in bylaws EXCEPT the right to vote as outlined in Article III, Section 3.02. a. ii.
- d. "Good standing" shall be defined as having dues that are current and have no other sanctions as defined in bylaws.

### Section III.04 Dues.

- a. The ExComm shall have sole power to set dues levels for the Party.
- b. Applicants for membership in the Party shall make application by payment of at least the minimum fee set by the Executive Committee. Upon payment of such fees, they will become members in good standing.

### Section III.05 Censure.

- a. Any member of the Party who substantially misrepresents or violates the statement of principles or platform of the Party may be censured at the next annual Convention by a 3/4 majority of voting members present.
- b. A censured member loses his/her member in good standing status and therefore may not vote at an annual convention in which the censured status applies. A censured status remains in effect for 12 months or until the next annual convention, whichever is greater.

## Article IV. Officers/Executive Committee

### Section IV.01 Election of and Term of Office.

- a. The officers of the party shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and two (2) at-large representatives who shall serve on the Executive committee.
- b. Additional executive committee members shall include one individual representing each congressional district.
- c. No offices shall be combined.
- ci. Elected officers shall be full voting members of the Executive committee.
- d. The Executive committee members shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Party during odd numbered years by the attending Party members.
- e. District representatives shall be elected at convention by the attending members of their congressional district.
- f. Term of office. Officers shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention in which they were elected.
- g. The Chair of the Party must be elected by a two-thirds majority.
- h. All other officers are elected by a simple majority

### Section IV.02 Duties of Officers.

#### a. The Chair.

- i. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party.
- ii. Hold the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party as may be delegated by the Executive Committee. These powers shall be outlined in the Policy Manual.

#### b. The Vice-Chair.

- i. Shall be the chief assistant to the Chair.
- ii. Perform such duties as the Chair may prescribe.
- iii. Have such powers as the Chair may delegate.
- iv. Shall serve as Acting Chair upon death, disability, resignation, or absence of the Chair until a new Chair is appointed.

#### c. The Secretary.

- i. Shall assist the Chair and Executive Committee.
- ii. Attend all meetings of the Executive Committee.
- iii. Keep such minutes and records as are necessary.

- iv. Make an annual report to the Executive Committee containing such information as the Executive Committee may require.

#### d. The Treasurer.

- i. Receive all money paid to the Party.
- ii. Shall deposit funds received in such bank or banks as designated by the Executive Committee.
- iii. Make an annual report to the Executive Committee and to the membership at large:
- iv. Make other reports as the Executive Committee shall request with respect to the finances of the Party.
- v. File all reports required by the State and National authorities.

### Section IV.03 Suspension of Officers.

- a. Any officer of the Party may be temporarily suspended by a 4/5 vote of the Bylaws Committee subject to ratification by a 2/3 vote of the members attending a Special Convention called for such a purpose. The members will then elect a replacement officer. Such officer will complete the term of the office vacated.

### Section IV.04 Vacancies.

- a. Vacancies occur by resignation, death, relocation, or failure to renew membership.
- b. The Executive Committee shall appoint new officers and Executive Committee members as vacated.
- c. Vacancies that occur because of suspension will be managed in accordance with Article IV, Sec 3.
- d. Any officers or members-at-large of the Executive Committee failing to register "present" in 3 consecutive roll calls of regularly scheduled executive committee meetings will be subject to a vote to declare their position vacant. The vote is in order until that member registers as "present" during an executive committee roll call. Officers and members-at-large require 2/3rds majority of those in attendance.

## Article V. Conventions.

### Section V.01 Annual Convention.

- a. The Party shall hold an annual Convention every year at the time and place selected by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Convention Committee to arrange the Convention. The planning for and management of the annual Convention is the responsibility of the convention committee.

- b. The final credentials report shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the credentialed members at the State Convention. The Convention shall be the final authority on all credentialing matters.

## Section V.02 Special Conventions.

### a. Special conventions..

- a. Executive Committee. A Special Convention may be called by presenting a petition signed by 1/2 of the dues-paying members of the Party, such Convention to be held within 30 days of the presentation of the petition to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Convention Committee to arrange the Convention.

### b. Participation and Voting.

- Any voting member as provided for in ARTICLE III, Sec. 2. a. who is in good standing attending any special convention of the Party may vote.

## Article VI. Executive Committee.

### Section VI.01 Composition.

The ExComm of the LPWI shall consist of:

- a. The four elected officers of the LPWI.
- b. The two at-large directors of the LPWI.
- c. A congressional representative/alternate representative
  - i. Includes alternate representatives who have voting authority in the absence of the congressional delegate.

### Section VI.02 Meetings.

- a. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly, and the chair shall determine the times and places of their quarterly meetings and announce them three weeks prior to the meeting.
- b. Electronic meetings via any simultaneous online platform (ex. ZOOM) are considered valid for the conduct of LPWI business.
- c. More than one-half (1/2) of the voting ExComm members thereof shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required under bylaws.
- d. Except as otherwise provided in the bylaws, a majority vote of those present at a meeting shall rule.
- e. All votes taken by the Executive committee shall be recorded as to the actual vote by each member. No secret votes shall be allowed.
- f. The ExComm shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities.

### Section VI.03 Special Meetings.

- a. A special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair or by any five (5) members of the Executive Committee.
- b. At least four (4) days' notice shall be given to all Executive Committee members prior to the meeting. Notice shall be provided through the organization's official internal messaging system and must be distributed to all Executive Committee members.
- c. The notice shall state the date, time, place (or method of meeting), and the specific business to be transacted. Only the business stated in the notice shall be considered at the special meeting.

## Article VII. Finance and Accounting.

### Section VII.01 Fiduciary responsibility.

- a. The Executive Committee shall ensure an efficient system of accounts to be installed and maintained.
- b. The Executive Committee shall have the power to designate the depository of all funds of the Party and shall appoint such officers and employees as in its judgment may seem advisable to deposit and withdraw from said depository.

### Section VII.02 Audit.

The Executive Committee shall designate an annual audit.

### Section VII.03 Incurrence of Debt.

It shall require a 90% approval of all the voting members of the Executive Committee to incur debt on behalf of the party.

### Section VII.04 Spending Limits.

It shall require a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee to spend any amount greater than \$6000 on any single line item.

## Article VIII. Standing Committees.

### Section VIII.01 Establishment of standing committees

Standing committees of the LPWI shall be determined by the membership at any regular annual meeting of the party.

### Section VIII.02 Existing standing committees.

Established standing committees (as of January 1. 2025) include: Bylaws and Platform

### Section VIII.03 Composition of standing committees.

- a. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of five (5) Party members appointed by the Convention. The term of a member of the Bylaws Committee shall run through the period of the next Party Convention which elects the Bylaws Committee and until a successor is appointed.
- b. Unless chosen on the floor of the Annual Convention, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Platform Committee at the first Excom meeting following the Annual Convention

### Section VIII.04 Restrictions on CBL committee membership.

No officer of the party may concurrently serve on the bylaws committee.

### Section VIII.05 Vacancies.

Members of standing committees who are unable or unwilling to serve, or who become ineligible to serve on said committee, may be replaced by the ExComm if requested by the chair of said standing committee.

### Section VIII.06 Duties.

Duties of standing committees. Overall duties and responsibilities shall be determined by voting members, codified in the policy manual, and changed as necessary by the voting members in convention.

### Section VIII.07 Accountability of standing committees.

- a. All standing committees are accountable to the general membership of the LPWI.
- b. Standing committees shall submit written reports to the ExComm as needed and/or requested by the ExComm.
- c. Standing committees shall submit written annual reports to the membership at each annual convention.

## Article IX. Affiliate Parties.

### Section IX.01 Authorization.

- a. The ExComm of the party shall charter affiliate parties from those organizations requesting such status as they may deem appropriate.
- b. The ExComm shall have the power to establish geographic areas for affiliate parties.
- c. The ExComm shall have the sole authority to determine any percentage of membership dues that may be returned to any affiliate party.

### Section IX.02 Application.

Application process for affiliate party status shall be codified in policy.

### Section IX.03 Autonomy.

- a. Affiliate parties that are chartered shall ratify the “Statement of Principles” of the Libertarian National Party.
- b. Affiliates will operate under the LPWI’s bylaws and other governing documents.
- c. Except as otherwise provided herein, the autonomy of the affiliate parties shall not be abridged by the LPWI.

### Section IX.04 Revocation.

The ExComm shall have the power to suspend or revoke affiliate party status from any organization by four-fifths vote of the ExComm.

## ARTICLE X. Platform:

- a. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Platform Committee at least twelve months prior to the Annual Convention. All Platform Committee meetings shall be open to any party member wishing to attend. A schedule of Platform Committee meetings shall be published in the party newsletter.
- b. Planks (herein meaning new planks for adoption, deleted planks or revised planks) must be provided to the chair of the Platform Committee in editable form at least four months before the Annual Convention. Such planks must be considered by the Platform Committee at its next meeting for proposal at the Annual Convention. The chair of the Platform Committee shall notify the author(s) of such a plank of the final status of the plank no later than two months prior to the Annual Convention.
- c. Any plank submitted to the Platform Committee under paragraph 2 of this article that is rejected by the Platform Committee may be proposed to the convention by the author(s) of that plank. The author(s) of such a plank shall provide the chair of the Platform Committee or the Party Chair a printed copy of the proposed plank at least one month before the Annual Convention. No changes may be made to the proposed plank after this deadline.
- d. The Platform Committee Chair will insure that printed copies of all proposed planks are made available to all convention attendees at the registration and sign-in desk.
- e. Platform planks shall be discussed and voted on by the Convention in the following order:
  - Planks proposed by the Platform Committee.
  - Planks proposed under paragraph C of this article.

- f. Platform planks shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:
- Planks may be identified as replacement planks when introduced.
  - Approval of a replacement plank removes the existing plank from the platform.

## Article XI. Endorsement of candidates for public office.

### Section XI.01 Nomination.

Candidates for public office shall be nominated pursuant to Chapter 8 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

### Section XI.02 Statewide public offices.

a. Voting.

All voting shall be done by secret ballot.

b. Endorsement.

The endorsed candidate for Governor shall have the power to veto any candidate for Lieutenant governor with whom he/she does not wish to run BEFORE balloting for Lt. Governor begins.

c. Candidate support.

The support of the party may be granted or withdrawn from a candidate for statewide office after the convention by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the ExComm. A censured member who runs for political office as a Libertarian will receive no recognition or support for the campaign from the Party.

## Article XII. Delegates/Alternates to LP National convention & functions.

### Section XII.01 Qualifications.

- a. Persons seeking delegate or alternate delegate status must be members in good standing of the LPWI.
- b. No member of the LPWI who is not a resident of the state of Wisconsin shall be a delegate.

### Section XII.02 Nomination & election.

- a. Delegates and alternate delegates to the national convention shall be elected by majority vote of the registered delegates to the LPWI state convention who are

properly credentialled.

- b. Nomination and election of delegates and alternate delegates shall occur at the last state convention held preceding the national convention, and not more than 365 days prior to the national convention.
- c. The nomination and election of said delegates and alternate delegates shall be codified in policy.

### Section XII.03 Delegation Leaders.

- a. The lead delegate shall be nominated and elected from among and by the elected delegates.
- b. A vice-chair of the delegation shall be elected in the same manner as the chair of the delegation.
- c. The announcement of the elected delegation chair and vice-chair shall be announced before the close of the annual convention.

### Section XII.04 Ranking of Alternate Delegates.

- a. Alternates shall substitute in rank order for any delegates who are absent from the convention floor.
- b. Disputes regarding substitutions shall be resolved by the delegation chair. In the event of the absence of the delegation chair, the delegation vice-chair shall settle all disputes.
- c. Only delegates and alternates selected at LPWI convention are eligible to be seated as a delegate at the national convention. Any person who is not elected at said convention may not be seated as a delegate or alternate delegate for any reason.

### Section XII.05 LP Platform Committee member selection.

- a. If the LPWI is eligible to elect a committee member to the LP (national) Platform Committee under the governing documents and rules of the LP (national); such election shall occur at the LPWI annual convention held during the applicable year.
- b. Voting shall occur by secret ballot and shall require a simple majority vote.
- c. An alternate for this position will also be selected in the same manner.

### Section XII.06 Region agreements:

The majority of ExComm members may enter into Region agreements up to seven days prior to the start of the National Convention. If no Region agreement has been decided on, or if changes are made to the original agreement, the majority of delegates may enter into a Region Agreement, on behalf of the LPWI. In the event of a tie vote, the Chair of the Party shall be the deciding vote.

## Article XIII. None of the Above (NOTA).

- a. Votes cast for “None of the Above” (NOTA) in voting for delegates to the national Libertarian Party conventions, representatives to the national Libertarian Party’s Platform committee, and all-party offices shall be considered valid and properly recorded.
- b. Any candidate for those positions as outlined above who receive fewer votes than “NOTA” for that position will not be eligible for that position for the term covered by that election.

## Article XIV. Amendments.

### Section XIV.01 Vote required.

Amendments to these bylaws shall require two-thirds vote of the voting delegates in convention.

### Section XIV.02 Exceptions to amendment/suspension.

Article III, 3.01 may not be amended or suspended for any reason.

Article IV, 4.03 may not be amended or suspended for any reason.

Article XIII, 13.03 may not be suspended.

## Article XV. Parliamentary Authority.

### Section XV.01 Robert’s Rules of Order.

The most currently published edition of Robert’s Rules of Order- Newly Revised (RONR) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered in bylaws or policy.

### Section XV.02 Suspension of parliamentary authority.

The ExComm may suspend RONR to suit the party’s needs.