

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN BYLAWS

Adopted: *October 7, 2014*

1. NAME

1.1. The name of the organization shall be the “Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan,” hereinafter referred to as the Party. For purposes of easier identification for persons outside the party, the name “Kalamazoo” may be included in parenthesis after the name.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

2.1. The purpose of the organization shall be to further the principles of individual liberty as expressed in the “Statement of Principles” of the National Libertarian Party by nominating and supporting candidates for public office and by carrying out other political informational and promotional activities in Kalamazoo County and such other counties located within an area broadly described as southwestern Michigan, and further defined by the party acting in accordance with these bylaws, and that is acceptable to the Libertarian Party of Michigan. It is understood that it is the goal of the Libertarian Party of Michigan to have at least one local affiliate in each county of the state. Therefore the party will assist the Libertarian Party of Michigan with the creation of independent local affiliates within the geographical area covered by the Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan whenever it appears desirable to do so.”

3. GOVERNING BYLAWS

3.1. The statements contained herein shall be the governing Bylaws of the Party, and shall become effective immediately upon adoption by majority vote of the Founding Members of the Party.

3.2. No action taken in the name of the Party by any of its Members shall be valid unless it is in compliance with these Bylaws.

3.3. These Bylaws may be amended by a two thirds majority vote of the Sustaining Members present at the next regular Membership meeting following a meeting at which a motion to amend is introduced. They may also be amended by a two thirds majority vote of the Executive Board members present at the next regular Executive Board meeting following a meeting at which a motion to amend is introduced.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1. Membership is open to all persons of goodwill, over the age of twelve, who eschew the use of aggression or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals. This statement does not preclude belief in or advocacy of self-defense or resistance to tyranny or other aggression.

4.2. The Membership shall consist of all Members of the Party.

4.3. Founding Members are those members of the Libertarian Party of Michigan who reside in Southwest Michigan and are present at the organizational meeting where these Bylaws are first adopted. During the first 30 days of the Party's existence, Founding Members shall have all the duties, rights, and privileges of Sustaining Members.

4.4. A member is any person who is over the age of twelve, has applied for membership in the Party, has affirmed the "Statement of Principles" of the National Libertarian Party, has certified in writing that he or she is opposed to the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, and has been notified by the Secretary of his/her acceptance into the Party. A Member, who is not a Sustaining Member or an Honorary Member, must notify the Secretary annually of his/her desire to remain a Member.

4.5. A Sustaining Member is a person who has been a Member continuously for the last thirty days, whose current dues payment (if any is required) has been accepted by the Treasurer, and who is not currently suspended for cause.

4.6. An Honorary Member is any person who has been designated as such by majority vote of the Sustaining Members at any Membership or Executive Board Meeting.

4.7. Only Sustaining Members may vote unless otherwise stated herein.

4.8. Regular Membership meetings shall be held at least annually at such time and place (within the geographical area in which the Party operates) as shall be determined by the Membership or the Executive Board. The Membership shall also meet at the call of the Chairman.

4.9. At any Membership meeting, a quorum shall consist of a number of Sustaining Member present, equal to the number of members currently serving on the Executive Board. A quorum shall be present in order to conduct business.

4.10. By a two thirds majority vote of Sustaining Members present at any Membership meeting, any Member may be removed from office, suspended or have her/his Membership revoked for cause, provided the Member is notified of the intent to remove from office, suspend or revoke at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be introduced. In the event that the Member has not been contacted by any other means, the mailing of a registered letter to the member at the latest address shown in the Party records, ten (10) days prior to the meeting will fulfill this requirement. If the intent is to remove the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at the meeting, and if the motion is carried, the Vice-Chairman shall assume the office of Chairman. A new Vice-Chairman shall then be elected at the second Membership meeting following the removal or at the first meeting of the year, whichever comes first.

4.11. By a majority vote, the Sustaining Members present at any Membership meeting may pass resolutions of the Party and/or endorse or deny endorsement to any candidate.

4.12. By a two-thirds majority vote the Sustaining Members present at any Membership meeting may override a decision of the Executive Board or of the Chairman.

4.13. Invited guests, and members of other Libertarian Parties are welcome to attend any Membership meeting and may address the meeting if invited by the presiding officer.

5. OFFICERS AND OTHER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

5.1. The officers of the Party shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board Member from each organized county within the party's jurisdiction. Except during the first 30 days of the Party's existence, all officers shall be Sustaining Members of the Party. A Sustaining Member of the Party may hold more than one office at a time, except that the same person shall not hold the offices of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

5.2. The initial election of officers and other Executive Board Members shall be by majority vote of the Founding Members. Thereafter, the Sustaining Members at the first regular Membership meeting of the year shall elect them. They shall take office immediately upon election, and shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors have been elected. In the event that a quorum does not exist and the Chairman determines that one is unlikely to exist within a reasonable time, the Chairman may appoint a Sustaining Member to each position.

5.3. If any office or other position is vacant for any reason, the Chairman shall be responsible for the duties of that office until a successor has been chosen in accordance with these Bylaws.

5.4. The Chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the Party and shall preside at all meetings of the Membership, the Executive Board and other general Party functions. The Chairman shall act in accordance with these Bylaws and the directives of the Executive Board and the General Membership, but in the absence of such, shall have authority to speak for, and to generally manage the affairs of the Party. The Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The Chairman shall be the official representative of the Party at all State and National Libertarian Party functions as both a delegate and head of the Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan Delegation. The Chairman may delegate the performance of any specific activity for which she/he is responsible, but shall retain managerial responsibility for any such activity so delegated. The Chairman may speak for or against any issue properly brought before any meeting and may vote on any motion.

5.5. The Vice-Chairman shall act as assistant to the Chairman and shall perform the duties of Chairman when the Chairman is unable or unwilling to do so.

5.6. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party, shall keep the Party records, including the Membership rolls, property inventory and minutes of meetings, and shall be responsible for all regular communications within the Party. The Secretary shall assist the Chairman to the extent practical as requested by the Chairman or as directed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may appoint assistant Secretaries, but the Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing and directing their work.

5.7. The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Party and shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the Party as directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall

provide an accounting of Party funds to the Chairman or to the Executive Board upon request, and shall report to the Membership at the first Membership meeting of the year and at such other times as directed by the Membership or the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall assist the Chairman to the extent practical as requested by the Chairman or as directed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board may appoint assistant Treasurers, but the Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing and directing their work.

5.8. Executive Board Members shall be elected at county caucus meetings about the time of the first Membership meeting of the year, or at about the time of the first Membership meeting after the county they represent is declared by the Executive Board to be organized. They shall take office immediately upon election, and shall serve for a period of one year or until a successor is elected. Executive Board Members must live in the county that they represent, except that if no board member is chosen by a county caucus, the Chairman may appoint a Board member at large to fill that position and such member need not live in the county represented. Organized counties are those that are determined to be such by the Executive Board.

5.9. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by majority vote at the second Membership meeting following their occurrence or at the first meeting of the year which ever comes first. If a quorum is not present and the Chairman determines that one is unlikely to exist within a reasonable time, the Chairman may fill the vacancies by appointment, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

6. EXECUTIVE BOARD

6.1. The Executive Board shall be the governing body of the Party except when a Membership meeting is in session. It shall be composed of the officers and Board Members chosen in accordance with these bylaws.

6.2. The Executive Board shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as it may decide. The time and place of all board meetings shall be made known to the Membership by e-mail or other electronic communications, postal letter, telephone or announcements at the General Membership meeting next following such decision if such General Membership meeting occurs before the next Executive Board meeting. The Board shall also meet at the call of the Chairman.

6.3. The time and place of Executive Board meetings shall not be withheld from any member of the Party and any member of the Party may attend and address the Board.

6.4. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Board members and must be present in order to conduct official business.

6.5. By a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board present, any Member of the Board may be removed for cause, provided the Member is notified of the intent to remove at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be introduced. In the event that the Member has not been contacted by any other means, the mailing of a registered letter to the Member at the latest address, as shown in the Party records, ten (10) days prior to the meeting will fulfill this requirement. If the intent is to remove the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at the meeting, and if the motion is carried, the Vice-Chairman shall assume the office of Chairman. A new Vice-Chairman shall then be elected at the second Membership meeting following the removal or at the first meeting of the year which ever comes first.

6.6. By a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board members present, the Board

may pass resolutions of the Party and/or endorse or deny endorsement to any candidate for public office.

6.7. Invited guests and members of other Libertarian Parties may attend Board meetings and may address the Board at the invitation of the Chairman.

7. FINANCES

7.1. By a majority vote of the Sustaining Members present at any Membership meeting, or a two thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, annual dues of not more than \$17.76 may be levied upon the Sustaining Members of the Party.

7.2. The Party shall not incur any debt beyond that for which funds are available, unless one or more individual Members guarantee the debt and a motion to do so is passed by a two-thirds majority vote at the meeting where the vote is taken.

8. AFFILIATIONS

8.1. Upon Adoption of these Bylaws, and the election of officers, the Chairman or Secretary shall make application to the Libertarian Party of Michigan for affiliate party status. As an affiliate party, the autonomy of the Libertarian Party of Southwest Michigan shall not be abridged by any action of the Libertarian Party of Michigan or the National Libertarian Party.

8.2. The Party may also enter into formal or informal affiliations or coalitions with other organized or ad hoc Libertarian organizations within or outside of its jurisdiction for the purpose of promoting Libertarian goals. However, such coalitions shall have no power to change these by-laws or to commit the Party to any action not authorized by these by-laws. The Party may accept funds from, or on behalf of the members of such affiliates or coalitions and may expend those funds in any legal manner unless restricted by formal written agreement entered into by the Party and such affiliates or coalitions.

9. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

9.1. No person shall be nominated who has not affirmed the “Statement of Principles” of the Libertarian Party and certified in writing that he or she is opposed to the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals, or who is legally ineligible to serve in the position sought.

9.2. “None of the above” shall always be an option when voting for candidates, delegates and Party offices.

9.3. Each candidate for public office, each delegate to Michigan and National Libertarian Party functions, and each Party office shall be chosen at a Party caucus by a direct majority vote of the Sustaining Members. In the case of candidates for public office, the caucus shall include only Sustaining Members who reside in the political district to which the position relates. Nominations shall be made from the floor of the caucus. After nominations are closed, a vote or series of votes shall be taken to determine whom the candidate, delegate or Party officer will be.

If no nominee or “None of the above” receives a majority of the vote after three ballots then the nominee with the least number of votes shall be struck from the ballot and another vote taken. This process shall continue until a nominee or “None of the above” receives a majority of the vote. Should a majority of the votes be cast for “None of the above” in balloting for a candidate, no candidate shall be chosen, and in the case of delegates and Party officers the position shall be declared vacant.

10. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

10.1. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws, or convention rules of the Party.

11. PROCEDURAL ERROR

11.1. In case of a procedural error in any action taken, the form for which is prescribed by these Bylaws, the action taken shall be as valid as if the error had not occurred, provided that the action does not result in injury to the Party, or any individual Member(s), or the error is excused by the injured Member(s).

12. DISSOLUTION

12.1. In the event that the party becomes defunct, all records, money and other property of the Party shall be turned over to the Libertarian Party of Michigan, who shall act as custodian for a period of twelve months. In the event that the Party is not reactivated within that time, the records, money and other property shall become the permanent property of the Libertarian Party of Michigan to be disposed of as it shall deem fit.

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