

July 24, 2017

Re: Request for Information dated July 5, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

Further to the Request for Information, the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts ("LAMA"), ID C00332221, respectfully requests that the Commission determine that LAMA is a "State committee" of the national Libertarian Party, and issue an Advisory Opinion in this connection at its earliest convenience.

Legal Requirements

The term "State committee" means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the State level, as determined by the Commission.¹

The Commission determines whether a State party organization qualifies as a State committee of a national political party based on three requirements: (1) The national party of which the State party organization is a part must itself be a "political party;" (2) The State party organization must be part of the official structure of the national party; and (3) The State party organization must be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the national party at the State level.²

To determine whether a state party organization is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a national party at the state level, the Commission considers: (a) whether the state organization has placed a federal candidate on the ballot (thereby itself qualifying as a "political party" under 52 U.S.C. § 30101(16)); and (b) whether the bylaws or other governing documents of the state party organization indicate activity commensurate with the day-to-day functions and operations of a political party at the state level.³

Description of Facts

LAMA is presently responsible for, undertakes, and intends to undertake in the future, the day-to-day operation of the Libertarian Party within Massachusetts. A description of all facts

¹ 52 U.S.C. § 30101(15).

 ² See Advisory Opinion 2016-22 (State party committee status for two Libertarian state organizations).
³ Id.

relevant to this activity is as follows:

(1) The Libertarian National Party is a Political Party

- 1. The Commission has determined that the Libertarian National Party ("LNP") is a national political party.⁴
- 2. As of December 2016, the Commission was aware of no factual changes to alter that conclusion.⁵
- 3. LAMA avers that the LNP continues to be a national political party, operating in all 50 United States.

(2) LAMA Is Part of the Official Structure of the LNP

- 1. The Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ("LNC") is the national party committee of the LNP.⁶
- 2. A letter from the LNC's Director of Operations, Mr. Robert Kraus, confirms that LAMA is the "sole affiliate for the State of Massachusetts" of the LNC within its official structure.⁷

(3) LAMA Is Responsible for the Day-To-Day Operation of the LNP in Massachusetts

(a) LAMA Has Placed Many Federal Candidates on the Ballot

- On information and belief, predecessors-in-interest of LAMA have existed in Massachusetts since at least 1980, when Ed Clark and David Koch appeared on the ballot in Massachusetts as the party's candidates for U.S. President.⁸
- 2. On information and belief, the present political committee, ID C00332221, has been in existence since at least July 1997.⁹
- 3. Regardless of activity before July 1997, LAMA has since caused to be placed on the general election ballot, in accordance with the procedures required by State law, the following candidates for U.S. President:
 - a. in 2000 Harry Browne (ID P60003043),
 - b. in 2004 Michael Badnarik (ID P40002537),
 - c. in 2008 Bob Barr (ID P80005580),
 - d. in 2012 Gary Johnson (ID P20002671), and
 - e. in 2016 Gary Johnson (ID P20002671).¹⁰

⁴ Advisory Opinion 1975-129 (National Committee of the Libertarian Party).

⁵ AO 2016-22.

⁶ *Id.* The current LNP bylaws are attached as Appendix A, and may be retrieved by the Commission at any time from <u>https://www.lp.org/bylaws-and-convention-rules/</u>.

⁷ The letter is attached as Appendix B.

⁸ Massachusetts Election Statistics, Public Document 43, available at <u>http://electionstats.state.ma.us/</u> (PD43). Screenshot of PD43 attached as Appendix C.

⁹ See Letter of Walter J. Ziobro, Jr., Treasurer, FEC Doc. 98032813158 (Jan. 31, 1998).

¹⁰ Screenshot of PD43 attached as Appendix D.

- 4. Since July 1997, LAMA has caused to be placed on the general election ballot the following candidates for U.S. Senate:
 - a. in 2000 Carla Howell (ID S8MA00185),
 - b. in 2002 Michael Cloud (ID S2MA00097), and
 - c. in 2008 Robert Underwood (ID S8MA00235).¹¹
- 5. Since July 1997, LAMA has caused to be placed on the general election ballot the following candidates for U.S. House:
 - a. in 1998 George Phillies (ID H8MA03049),
 - b. in 2000 David Euchner (ID H0MA04093),
 - c. in 2002 Ilana Freedman (ID H2MA05096),
 - d. in 2012 Daniel Fishman (ID H2MA06078), and
 - e. in 2016 Thomas Simmons (ID H6MA01096).¹²
- (b) The LAMA Constitution and Bylaws Show Responsibility for Activity Commensurate with the Day-To-Day Functions and Operations of a Political Party at the State Level
 - 1. The LAMA Constitution¹³ provides in its preamble, in relevant part, that its purpose is to

give voice to and implement the fundamental principle of libertarianism... by supporting candidates for public office...

2. The LAMA Constitution also provides, in Article II, sections 1 and 3, that

A regular State Convention shall be held in every year.

The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office.

3. The LAMA Constitution also provides, in Article IV, section 5, that

Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention.

4. The LAMA Bylaws¹⁴ are replete with details regarding candidate recruitment, support, and training; voter ID, GOTV efforts, and other federal election activity; procedures for selecting delegates to the National Convention; procedures for chartering district and local party committees; and other such minutiae commensurate with the functions of a

¹¹ Screenshot of PD43 attached as Appendix E.

¹² Screenshot of PD43 attached as Appendix F.

¹³ Attached as Appendix G.

¹⁴ Attached as Appendix H.

State Committee.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, LAMA respectfully requests at the Commission determine that LAMA is a "State committee" of the Libertarian Party, and issue an Advisory Opinion confirming this finding, at its earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Susan M. M. Ruiz, Treasurer Libertarian Association of Massachusetts

Appendix A

Libertarian Party Bylaws and Convention Rules Adopted in Convention, May 2016, Orlando, Florida

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party

ARTICLE 1: NAME

These articles shall govern the association known as the "Libertarian Party," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by: functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements; moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office; chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities; nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and, entering into public information activities.

ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM

- 1. The Statement of Principles affirms that philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail. The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it may be amended only by a vote of 7/8 of all registered delegates at a Regular Convention.
- 2. The Party Platform shall include, but not be limited to, the Statement of Principles and the implementation of those principles in the form of planks.
- 3. The current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing Platform may be amended only at Regular Conventions. Additional planks, or additions to planks, must be approved by 2/3 vote. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

- 1. 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.
- 2. The National Committee may offer life memberships, and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
- 3. "Sustaining member" is any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member.
- 4. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
- 5. Higher levels of contribution by or on behalf of a Party member qualify as sustaining member status for any provision of these Bylaws.

6. Only sustaining members shall be counted for delegate apportionment and National Committee representation. Only sustaining members shall be eligible to hold National Party office or be a candidate for President or Vice-President.

ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

- 1. No person, group or organization may use the name "Libertarian Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws.
- 2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their Constitution and/or Bylaws with the Party Secretary.
- 3. There shall be no more than one state-level affiliate party in any one state. Each state-level affiliate party shall, in accordance with its own Bylaws and these Bylaws, determine who shall be its delegates to all Regular Conventions. A state-level affiliate party may charter sub-affiliate parties within the state, which will entitle such sub-affiliates to use the name "Libertarian Party."
- 4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate who is a member of another party for public office in any partisan election. No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or these Bylaws.
- 5. The autonomy of the affiliate and sub-affiliate parties shall not be abridged by the National Committee or any other committee of the Party, except as provided by these Bylaws.
- 6. The National Committee shall have the power to revoke the status of any affiliate party, for cause, by a vote of 3/4 of the entire National Committee. A motion to revoke the status of an affiliate party for cause must specify the nature of the cause for revocation. The affiliate party may challenge the revocation of its status by written appeal to the Judicial Committee within 30 days of receipt of notice of such revocation. Failure to appeal within 30 days shall confirm the revocation and bar any later challenge or appeal. The National Committee shall not revoke the status of any affiliate party within six months prior to a Regular Convention. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal within 20 to 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and submit evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's revocation of affiliate party status or order reinstatement of the affiliate party. The Judicial Committee shall issue its ruling within 30 days of the hearing and in no case later than 90 days prior to a Regular Convention. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's revocation of affiliate party status except when the last day of the 30 day period falls within 90 days prior to a Regular Convention, in which case the Judicial Committee's non-action shall result in reinstatement of affiliate party status.

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

- 1. The officers of the Party shall be:
 - o Chair,
 - o Vice-Chair,
 - o Secretary, and
 - o Treasurer.

All of these officers shall be elected by a Regular Convention of the Party, shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention. No person shall serve as an officer who is not a sustaining member of the Party.

2. No offices shall be combined.

- 3. The Chair shall preside at all Conventions and all meetings of the National Committee. The Chair is the chief executive officer of the Party with full authority to direct its business and affairs, including hiring and discharging of National Committee volunteers and paid personnel, subject to express National Committee policies and directives issued in the exercise of the National Committee's plenary control and management of Party affairs, properties and funds.
- 4. The Vice-Chair shall be the chief assistant to the Chair, performing such duties as the Chair shall prescribe, and holding such executive powers as the Chair shall delegate and shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event that the Chair is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.
- 5. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Chair or the National Committee. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the National Committee and all Party Conventions and shall act as Secretary thereof, keeping such minutes and records as necessary.
- 6. The Treasurer shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair and the National Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the National Committee and shall perform all duties required of the office by applicable federal and state law. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, internal and external reporting. The Treasurer shall report to the National Committee and the Convention both the financial situation of the Party and the results of its activities. The report of the Treasurer to the Convention, specified in Convention Rule 1 agenda item 4, shall include an independent auditor's report opining whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Party and the changes in its net assets and its cash flow for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Unaudited interim financial statements shall also be presented. Such reports shall be made available to every delegate.
- 7. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any officer by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee. The suspended officer may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the officer or order the officer's reinstatement within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee's suspension of the officer. At such time as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.
- 8. The National Committee shall appoint new officers if vacancies occur, such officers to complete the term of the office vacated.

ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- The National Committee shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of the Party consistent with these Bylaws. The Libertarian National Committee shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purposes of the Party as stated in Article 2. The National Committee shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities. The National Committee may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.
- 2. The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:
 - a. the officers of the Party;
 - b. five members elected at large by the delegates at a Regular Convention; and
 - c. any additional members as specified below:
 - Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national sustaining

membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the National Convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the Convention at which they take place.

- 3. The National Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular Convention at which they are selected, and serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention.
- 4. A National Committee member shall be a sustaining member of the Party, and shall not be the candidate of any party except the Party or an affiliate.
- 5. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any member-at-large by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee. The suspended member-at-large may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large or order reinstatement of the member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee's suspension of the National Committee's suspension of the Statement of the Mational Committee an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the Mational Committee's suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.
- 6. A National Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive regular sessions of the National Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his or her seat. The appointing body shall be free to reappoint the member who vacated the seat.
- 7. The National Committee shall appoint new officers and members-at-large if vacancies occur, such officers and members-at-large to complete the term of the office vacated.
- 8. A National Committee Regional Representative may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties which constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs shall prevail.
- 9. The National Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by: action of the Committee, call of the Chair, or written request of 1/3 or more of its members.
- 10. A majority of the membership of the National Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.
- 11. The National Committee may adopt public policy resolutions by a ³/₄ vote with previous notice or by unanimous consent without previous notice.
- 12. Upon appeal by ten percent of the delegates credentialed at the most recent Regular Convention or one percent of the Party sustaining members the Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not a decision of the National Committee contravenes specified sections of the Bylaws. If the decision is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void.
- 13. The National Committee shall use roll call voting on all substantive motions. Additionally, the National committee must have a roll call vote upon request of any single Committee member present on any motion. On all roll call votes, the vote of each individual Committee member shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 14. The Secretary or a designee shall promptly post notice for each session of the National Committee; any National Committee proposed agendas; and approved minutes of each Convention and open National Committee session to a permanent archive section on the Party's website. Any person may record the National Committee's proceedings while in open session, or subscribe to a read-only email list on which LNC votes are recorded.

ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

- 1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven Party members elected at each Regular Convention, and any five members shall constitute a quorum. No member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular Convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention.
- 2. The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:
 - a. suspension of affiliate parties (Article 5, Section 6),
 - b. suspension of officers (Article 6, Section 7),
 - c. suspension of National Committee members-at-large (Article 7, Section 5),
 - d. voiding of National Committee decisions (Article 7, Section 12),
 - e. challenges to platform planks (Rule 5, Section 7),
 - f. challenges to Resolutions (Rule 6, Section 2), and
 - g. suspension of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates (Article 14, Section 5).
- 3. Within 90 days following the Regular Convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish Rules of Appellate Procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission. A copy of the current Rules of Appellate Procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.

ARTICLE 9: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

- 1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.
- 2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee. The Audit Committee shall present its findings to each Regular Convention and clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.
- 3. No disbursements exceeding \$100 may be made with cash.
- 4. The National 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 funds.
- 5. The Party shall not borrow in excess of \$2,000 total without prior approval by 2/3 vote of the National Committee. This shall not include current operating debt for trade payables.
- 6. The National Committee shall designate an Assistant Treasurer to temporarily serve in the event the Treasurer is incapacitated or unavailable, or vacates the position.

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

1. Regular Conventions:

The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only.

- 2. Delegates:
 - a. Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party. At all Regular Conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the Convention.
 - b. Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a Regular Convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate party; provided however, that only members of the Party as defined in these Bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a Regular Convention.
- 3. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:

Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:

- a. One delegate for each 0.14 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate; provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District.
- b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state.
- 4. Delegate Allocation:
 - a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the Regular Convention.
 - b. The Secretary shall make a count of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall be sent by the Secretary to the Chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a Regular Convention.
 - c. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the Regular Convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the Convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the greater of 50 or the number of delegates allocated.
 - d. Failure to submit a listing of delegate/alternate names and addresses, as prescribed within these Bylaws, shall cause no delegation to be registered from that affiliate party.
 - e. By seven-eighths vote, the Convention may approve additional delegates and alternates whose names and addresses are submitted to the Credentials Committee during the Convention.
- 5. Delegate List:

Any Party member shall be provided, upon request and payment of copying and mailing costs, a list of the names and addresses of all delegates selected to attend and those who actually attended the most recent two Conventions, with those who attended clearly identified, and all delegates / alternates selected to the upcoming convention, if available.

- 6. Voting Eligibility:
 - a. Use of the unit rule or unit voting is prohibited at national conventions.
 - b. Duly selected alternates may be freely substituted for any members of their delegation 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 Credentials Committee 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.

- c. An alternate, upon certification by the Credentials Committee, may function as a delegate whenever a delegate of the same state 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.
- d. If the affiliate party has made no other provision, an alternate may temporarily vote in place of a delegate from the same state while he or she has the written consent of that delegate; however, no delegate may cast more than one vote on a question.
- e. All members must wear the identification badge issued upon registration in order to be admitted to the Convention hall.
- 7. Votes cast for "None of the Above" in voting on the Party's nominees for President and Vice-President, the Party Officers, and at-large members of the National Committee, shall be considered valid. Should a majority of the votes be cast for "None of the Above" in the Presidential or Vice-Presidential balloting, no candidate shall be nominated for that office. Should "None of the Above" be selected for any Party office, 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.
- 8. Quorum:

A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.

- 9. The Convention Secretary shall produce draft convention minutes within 60 days of the adjournment of the Convention and present them to the National Committee. Draft convention minutes shall be posted on the Party's website at least 14 days prior to being submitted to the National Committee for approval by a two-thirds vote.
- 10. Convention Rules: The Party's Convention Special Rules of Order may be amended only by a Regular Convention.

ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

- 1. There shall be a Platform Committee, a Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee for each Regular Convention. The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.
- 2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of ten Party members appointed by the National Committee no later than three months before a Regular Convention. No more than five of these members shall be members of the current National Committee.
- 3. The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:
 - a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention.
 - b. One member by each of the ten affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention.
 - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.
 - d. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Regular Convention.
- 4. The Credentials Committee, composed of ten members, shall be selected as follows.
 - a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a Regular Convention.
 - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than one month prior to the Regular Convention.

- 5. Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the Convention Committees.
- 6. Committee Procedures
 - a. 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.
 - b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.

ARTICLE 12: MEETINGS

Boards and committees may conduct business by teleconference or videoconference. The National Committee shall have power to adopt special rules of order and standing rules to facilitate the conduct of business by teleconference or videoconference.

ARTICLE 13: ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOTS

Boards and committees may transact business by electronic mail. The chair or secretary shall send out electronic mail ballots on any question submitted by the chair or cosponsored by at least 1/5 of the members of the board or committee. The period for voting on a question shall remain open for ten days, unless all members have cast votes, or have stated an intention to abstain or be absent during the voting period, by electronic mail to the entire board or committee. Votes from alternates will be counted, in accordance with previously defined ranked order, in the absence of the corresponding committee member(s). The outcome of each motion shall be announced promptly and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The number of votes required for passage of any motion shall be the same as that required during a meeting. Motions dispensed through electronic mail ballots satisfy the requirement of giving previous notice.

ARTICLE 14: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

- 1. Nominations of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States may be made only at the Regular Convention immediately preceding a Presidential election.
- 2. No candidate may be nominated for President or Vice-President who is ineligible under the United States Constitution, who has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party, who served as a stand-in candidate during the current election cycle, or who is not a sustaining member of the Party. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at Convention.
- 3. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification or suspension of the nomination of the Party's nominee for President, the Vice-Presidential nominee shall become the Presidential nominee. Two-thirds of the entire membership of the National Committee may, at a meeting, fill a Vice-Presidential vacancy, and, if necessary, a simultaneous Presidential vacancy.
- 4. The National Committee shall respect the vote of the delegates at Nominating Conventions and provide full support for the Party's nominee for President and nominee for Vice-President as long as their campaigns are conducted in accordance with the Platform of the Party.
- 5. A candidate's nomination may be suspended by a 3/4 vote of the entire membership of the National Committee at a meeting. That candidate's nomination shall then be declared null and void unless the suspended candidate appeals the suspension to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notification of suspension. The resolution of suspension must state the specific reasons for suspension and must be signed by each member of the National Committee agreeing thereto. The Judicial Committee shall meet and act on this appeal within 30 days and before the election.

ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

- 1. The Convention Special Rules of Order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting.
- 2. The Convention Special Rules of Order may provide a mechanism under which, when no candidate initially receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is removed from consideration.

ARTICLE 16: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the Party.

ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT

- 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any Regular Convention.
- 2. Article 3, Section 1, shall not be amended by a vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a Regular Convention.

ARTICLE 18: PROMULGATION OF BYLAWS

The National Committee shall promulgate the Bylaws in accordance with applicable law. A copy of these Bylaws and Convention Rules shall be provided to each member of the National Committee, each member of the Judicial Committee and each Chair of an affiliate party within 90 days of adoption.

Convention Special Rules of Order of the Libertarian Party

RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

- 1. Call to order
- 2. Credentials Committee report
- 3. Adoption of agenda
- 4. Treasurer's report
- 5. Audit Committee report
- 6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
- 7. Platform Committee report
- 8. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
- 9. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee
- 10. Election of Judicial Committee
- 11. Resolutions
- 12. Other business

RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS

- On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.
- 2. 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 3: POLLING PROCEDURE

- 1. The State Chair shall serve as chair of his or her delegation, unless that delegation selects another of its members to serve as its chair and so notifies the Secretary.
- 2. In cases where a roll call vote is required, polling shall be by state. The Secretary will ask for the vote from each state in alphabetical order, and the chair of each delegation shall report the vote for that state. The Convention seating will be by state delegation. If someone challenges the vote reported by any state's chair, the Secretary shall poll the delegates from that state individually.
- 3. In cases where computer readable ballots are used, each delegate must sign the ballot and submit it to the delegation chair. After verifying that the number of votes cast does not exceed the number the state is entitled to, the chair of each delegation shall submit the ballots to the Secretary. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption.

RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING -- BYLAWS AND RULES

The Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall report each recommendation of the Committee to the Convention separately and shall have two minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). The Convention Chair shall open each recommendation to discussion without amendment from the floor. Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of eight minutes discussion on any recommendation. After the discussion, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to amendment for an additional 10 minutes.

RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM

- 1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:
 - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.
 - b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.
 - c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.
 - d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.
 - e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.
 - f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.
 - g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.
- 2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each Regular Convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.
- 3. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
 - a. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person designated by him or her, shall read the proposed recommendation and shall have up to two minutes to explain the recommendation.
 - b. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to debate without amendment for a period of up to 15 minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to 10 minutes.
- 4. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
 - a. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall each have two minutes to present their views.
 - b. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After 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 Section 3b.
- 5. After all Committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the Platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.
- 6. Finally, if time permits, proposals which were considered by the Platform 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 Platform 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.
- 7. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by 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 3/4 vote of the Convention.

8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the LNC presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.

RULE 6: RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolutions must be approved by a 2/3 vote.
- 2. Resolutions must not be in conflict with the Statement of Principles. Challenges of such adopted Resolutions believed by 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 3/4 vote of the Convention.

RULE 7: NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

- No person shall be nominated for President or Vice-President unless at least 30 registered delegates join in the nomination in writing submitted to the Chair. No delegate may join in nominating more than one candidate for each office. The affixing of signatures to a nominating petition per this requirement shall be effected by a transfer of signature tokens issued by the Credentials Committee.
- 2. The Party's nominee for President shall be chosen by majority vote. If no candidate has attained a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes and any candidates polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote, until one candidate attains a majority.
- 3. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all the delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed. At this point, an announcement of each delegation's vote total shall be made by delegation chairs in alphabetical order beginning with a randomly selected delegation.
- 4. The Party's nominee for Vice-President shall be chosen by the same procedure as for the Presidential nominee except that the Presidential nominee shall have the privilege of addressing the Convention for 5 minutes, after nominations have been made but before voting has begun, for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees. Nominations for Vice-President shall close after selection of the Presidential nominee.
- 5. Nominating and seconding speeches for each candidate shall be limited in duration as follows:
 - a. President: Total of 16 minutes;
 - b. Vice-President: Total of 11 minutes.

A delegate who collects the required number of nominating tokens so designated may speak up to 5 minutes in favor of voting for None Of The Above.

RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- 1. Nominations for Party Officers shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
 - a. For each office, a majority vote will be necessary for election.
 - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed.

- c. In cases where no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.
- 2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
 - a. Each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.
 - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.
 - c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The top five candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.
- 3. Nominations for each candidate may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:
 - a. Chair: Total of 10 minutes;
 - b. All others: Total of 5 minutes.
- 4. In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its regional representative to the National Committee then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.

RULE 9: ELECTION OF JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Nominations and elections for members of the Judicial Committee shall be conducted in the same manner as specified for at-large members of the National Committee.

RULE 10: VERIFICATION OF DELEGATION VOTE TOTALS

For each vote in which subtotals are submitted by delegation, each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot. After each delegation has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, tellers approved by the Secretary shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals.

After the Secretary has recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy.

Judicial Committee Rules of Appellate Procedure As Amended 2016

1. The Judicial Committee shall take action only when its Chair receives a written request for a ruling on a matter identified in the Party's Bylaws as being within the Committee's jurisdiction ("petition"). Such petition(s) shall identify: (a) the basis for the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee; (b) the ruling requested; (c) the verifiable identity of the person or persons, affiliate or Party committee petitioning for the requested ruling ("petitioner(s)"); and (d) the identity by individual name of any person who or affiliate or Party committee that would be directly affected by the requested ruling. Such a person, affiliate or committee directly affected by the requested ruling, together with any other person, affiliate or committee identified by the Chair in his or her discretion as likely to be so affected, will be considered a prospective "respondent". The petition(s) should be supported by such written and other evidence as the petitioner(s) believes supports the grant of the ruling requested.

2. Within seven days following receipt of such petition(s) (or promptly, if the request is received during a National Convention), the Committee Chair shall provide a copy of the petition(s) to each prospective respondent, along with any supporting material the Chair has been sent, and notice that if the prospective respondent(s) desires to respond to the petition(s) the prospective respondent(s) must do so in writing within seven days (or promptly, if the request is received during a National Convention) ("response").

3. If the Committee is called into action during a National Convention, the Chair shall convene the Committee as soon as is reasonably possible, and the Committee shall consider written petition(s), response(s), and evidence provided by petitioner(s) and respondent(s) in a meeting open to Convention delegates, who may observe, but not participate in, the proceedings. Upon request of either petitioner(s) or respondent(s), and/or at the Committee's direction, the Committee may hear arguments from petitioner(s) and respondent(s) in person.

4. When such petition(s) is received at any time other than during a National Convention, the Chair shall contact and advise the other Committee members by phone at their last known number (where possible), or by electronic mail for which the member(s) acknowledge receipt, within seven days of receiving the request. Within ten days after providing a copy of the petition(s) to the prospective respondent(s), the Chair shall forward a copy of the petition(s) and any response(s) received to each of the other Committee members at their last known electronic mail address (or postal mail address, if explicitly requested), along with any supporting material and counter-arguments he or she has been sent. A copy of the petition(s) and any response(s) shall be made available electronically to any sustaining member upon request. The Committee may by a majority vote redact portions of the petition(s) and response(s) so made available.

5. When such petition(s) is received at any time other than during a National Convention, the Committee members shall review all material they are sent within seven days of receiving it, and each member shall advise the Chair as soon as he or she has done so.

6. After the Chair has been advised by at least two other Committee members that they have reviewed the materials provided, he or she shall set a time for a meeting of the Committee to decide the matter at hand and notify the Committee in writing of such time. Unless all of the

Committee members request a physical gathering, the meeting shall take place by telephone conference or videoconference. Any meeting shall be open to sustaining members, who may observe (but not participate in) the proceedings. The Committee may by a 2/3 vote deliberate in open session; otherwise, deliberations shall be in executive session. However, any oral arguments shall be in open session and any decision shall be rendered in writing, which written decision shall be public. The Committee may in its discretion offer to the petitioner(s) and respondent(s) an equal opportunity to make their arguments orally via a telephone conference, videoconference, or physical meeting, under such rules as the Committee shall specify. Members who are unable to participate in the meeting shall retain the right to vote by electronic mail or by phone, provided their vote is received by the Chair no later than 10 days after the meeting.

7. When the Committee reaches a decision, the Chair shall notify the petitioner(s) who requested the ruling, any respondent(s) to the petition(s), the National Chair and the National Secretary. Preliminary notification may be made orally, either in person or by telephone; official notification shall be made in writing, as soon as all participating Committee members have voted on the matter in question or 10 days after the meeting, if all members have not voted.

8. Petitions, responses, supporting materials and notifications required to be provided in writing in connection with any proceeding may be delivered personally, or by United States mail, private overnight delivery service, fax or electronic mail.

Appendix B



- To: Whom It May Concern
- Fr: Robert S. Kraus Director of Operations
- Re: LP Affiliate

Please note:

Per our Bylaws, the Libertarian National Committee (FEC Committee ID: C000255695 – FEIN 52-1170810) recognizes the following as our sole affiliate for the State of Massachusetts:

Libertarian Association of Massachusetts (LAMA) P.O. Box. 787 Framingham, MA 01701

Cris Crawford, Chair LAMA - Phone: 508-647-4888 - Email: chair@lpmass.org

This affiliate has been recognized by our Secretary as our sole qualifying organization in Massachusetts. Our Secretary has certified that they have adopted the Statement of Principles and filed a copy of their Constitution and Bylaws with our National Office.

The LAMA is qualified and authorized per our Party Bylaws to determine who shall be its delegates to all Regular National Libertarian Party Conventions representing their state. They are also the sole qualifying political party organization in Massachusetts with permission to use our recognized registered trademarks and logo.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the status of the LAMA within the LNC.

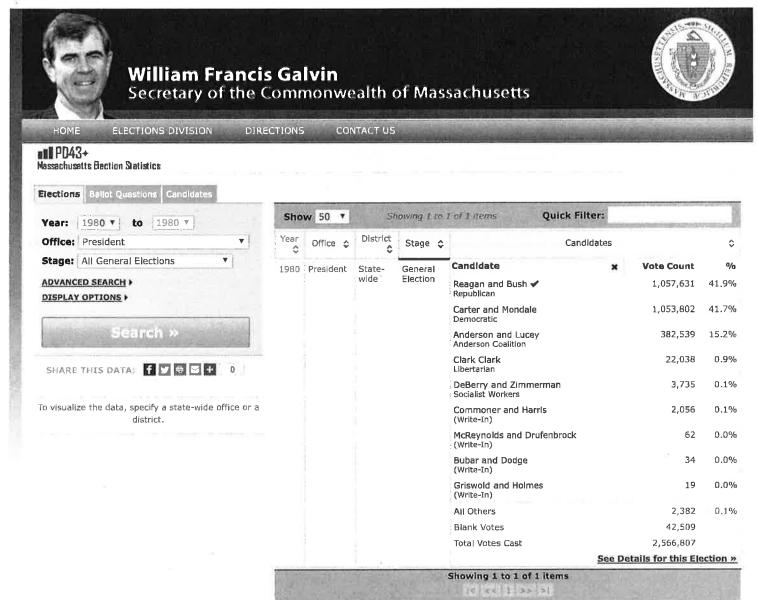
Thank you in advance,

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Robert S. Kraus Director of Operations

Appendix C

7/10/2017



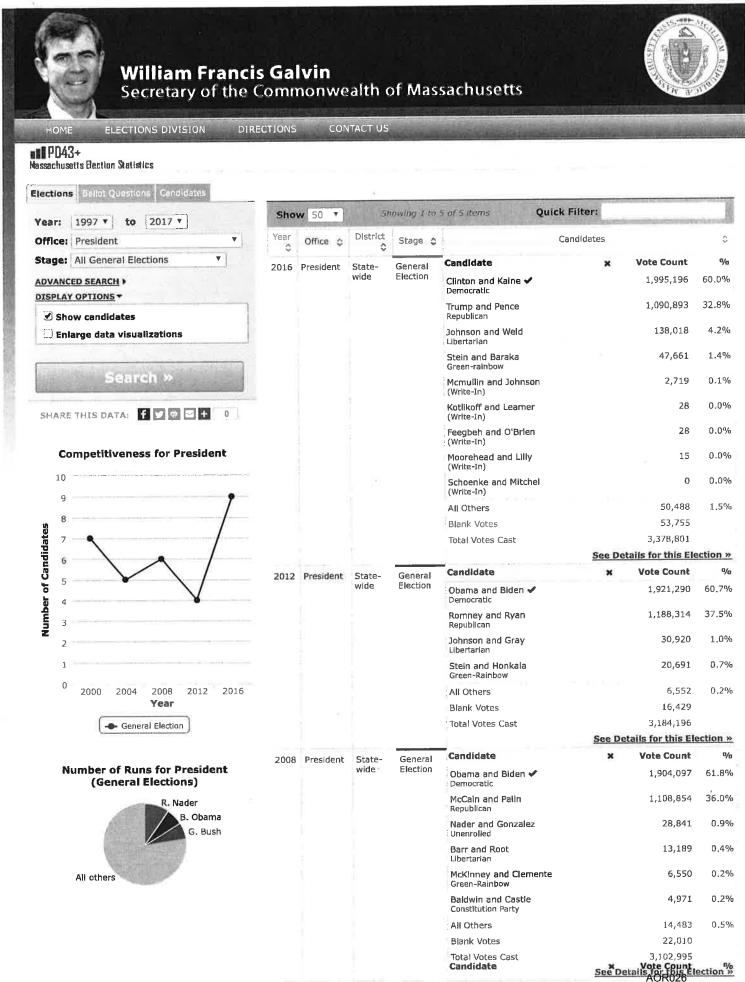
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Appendix D

7/10/2017

PD43+ » Search Elections



PD43+ » Search Elections

Year \$	Office 🗘	District	Stage 🗘	C	andidates		٥
2004	· President	State- wide	General Election	Candidate	×	Vote Count	%
				Kerry and Edwards 🖋 Democratic		1,803,800	61.9%
				Bush and Cheney Republican		1,071,109	36.8%
				Badnarik and Campagna Libertarian		15,022	0.5%
				Cobb and LaMarche Green-Rainbow		10,623	0.4%
				Nader and Camejo (Write-In)		4,806	0.2%
				All Others		7,028	0,2%
				Blank Votes		15,067	
				Total Votes Cast		2,927,455	
					See Det	ails for this Ele	ection »
2000	President	State- wide	General Election	Candidate	ж	Vote Count	%
				Gore and Lieberman 🖌		1,616,487	59.8%
				Bush and Cheney Republican		878,502	32,5%
				Nader and LaDuke Green		173,564	6.4%
				Browne and Olivier Libertarian		16,366	0.6%
				Buchanan and Higgins Reform		11,149	0.4%
				Hagelin and Tompkins Unenrolled		2,884	0.1%
				McReynolds and Hollis (Write-In)		42	0.0%
				All Others		3,990	0.1%
				Blank Votes		31,022	
				Total Votes Cast		2,734,006	
					See Det	See Details for this Election	

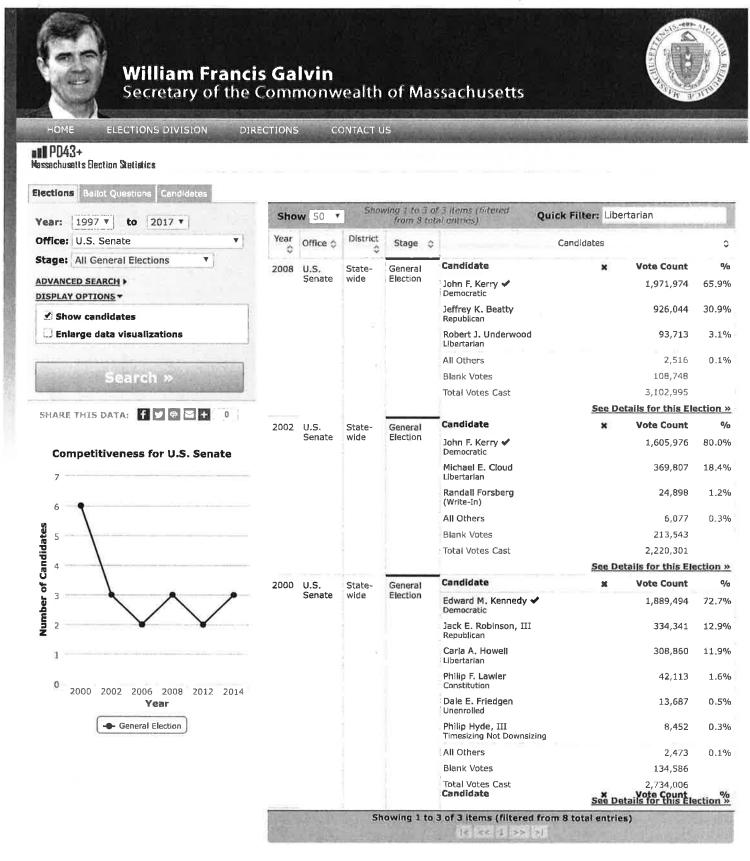
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Appendix E

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7/10/2017



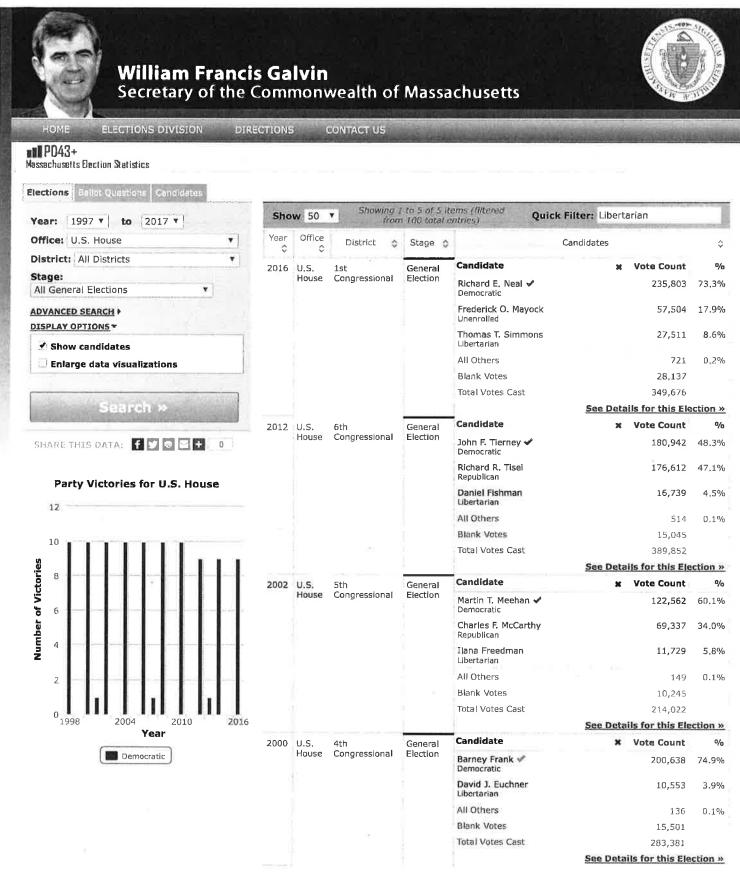
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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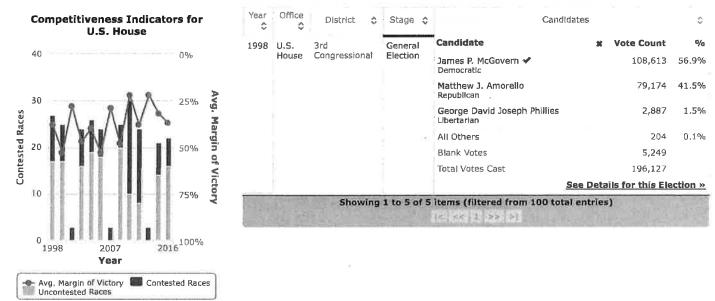
Appendix F

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7/10/2017



PD43+ » Search Elections



William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Appendix G

A.





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CONSTITUTION THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION OF MASSACHUSETTS

As amended at the 2010 Regular State Convention

Preamble, Name and Purpose

We, the Libertarians of Massachusetts, do hereby unite to form the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts, in order to give voice to and implement the fundamental principle of libertarianism: that no person, group of people, or government has the right to initiate force against any other person, group of people, or government. We shall do this by supporting candidates for public office, publicizing the principles and goals of libertarianism, and taking any actions that the State Convention or the State Committee deem will further our aims. The Association, its Bylaws, and State Committee exist solely as a path for reaching the objectives of this preamble.

Article I: Membership

1. Members are all dues-paying members in Massachusetts, and all other persons who may so qualify under uniform rules of non-dues paying membership for which the State Committee may provide in its Bylaws.

Article II: State Convention

1. A regular State Convention shall be held in every year.

2. Persons, who are Members of this Organization whose dues are current, and who joined the Organization at least 30 days prior to the date of the State Convention, are eligible to vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. Persons who were duespaying Members of the Organization, or Sustaining Members of the National Libertarian Party, within the past three years, including a period at least 90 days before the day of the State Convention, but whose Organization dues are not current, may join or rejoin this Organization at the State Convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then vote and participate in the business meeting at the State Convention. AOR034 3. The State Convention may endorse candidates for office or it may explicitly endorse running no candidate for an office. If it does so, the Organization will support those candidates to within the limits of State and Federal law and other demands on its resources, and will not support any competing candidates for the same office. In the absence of a State Convention endorsement, either for a candidate or for no candidate, the State Committee may support a candidate for that office, again within the limits of law and competition for resources.

4. The convention shall have the authority by two-thirds vote to adopt or amend a platform.

5. If 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership signs a petition requesting a special state convention, and mails or presents the petition papers to the state committee, the state committee must organize a state convention to be held between 30 and 60 days of the date of delivery of the petition to the state committee. In a single calendar year a state party member may not sign more than one petition requesting a special state convention.

The petition shall specify the agenda of the special state convention, and the state committee may, by majority vote, append items to the end of that agenda, but may not otherwise change the agenda. The quorum for a special state convention shall be 10% or 500 (whichever is less) of the current dues paying membership of the party. If one or more dues paying state party members mails or presents to the state committee a written request to assemble a petition requesting a special state convention, then, within 60 days, the state committee must inform the dues paying members of this request, and the names and contact information for the party members who made the request. Other relevant information may also be included. State party members must be informed about the petition by placing the information on the first page of the party newsletter, and prominently on any electronic media controlled by the state committee.

Article III: Candidates

1. The responsibility for meeting the legal requirements for ballot access rests with each candidate.

2. In the event State or Federal Law authorizes this Organization to place candidates on the ballot, whether to replace candidates, fill vacant ballot lines, or for whatever other reason, in the absence of contrary legal specification or directive of the State Convention, the State Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Organization for this purpose.

Article IV: State Committee

1. Each regular State Convention shall elect, as provided in the Bylaws, up to nine State Committee members. 2. Within 30 days of their election, the newly-elected State Committee shall meet and elect a Chair, a Treasurer, and such other officers as are specified in the Bylaws.

3. The State Committee shall elect officers to fill any vacancies. The State Committee may by majority vote appoint to itself additional members.

4. All members of the State Committee shall hold office until adjournment of the next State Convention at which their successors are chosen.

5. The State Committee may make rules for its proceedings, for the calling of State Conventions, and for the selection of Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention. Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention shall be chosen at the State Convention held immediately prior to that National Convention.

If elections for State Committee and Convention Delegates happen at the same State Convention, the State Committee is elected first. Persons who will be members of the State Committee at the time of the National Convention are entitled ex officio to be named as Delegates or Alternates, but must so request prior to the election of Delegates and Alternates. The State Convention or State Committee may promulgate Bylaws consistent with this Constitution to ensure a full delegation at the National Convention.

6. To be eligible to be elected as a Massachusetts Delegate to the National Convention, a person must, at the time of the National Convention, be:

a. a legal resident of Massachusetts, and

b. a Member in good standing of the Organization.

7. The State Committee shall have the authority to adopt or amend the Bylaws by a twothirds vote, two weeks' notice and an opportunity to respond having been given.

8. To be elected or serve as a member or officer of the State Committee, a person must be a Member of the Organization whose dues are current.

9. Every member of the State Committee must make available their name, their office in the Organization if any, and a working way to contact them, in the Organization's newsletter and on the Organization's web site. This may be a physical mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, or some combination of these.

10. The State Committee may by two-thirds vote of its entire membership expel a person from the State Committee, for cause, after affording the accused reasonable access to due process. Expiration of membership in the Organization is cause, but payment of membership dues to renew membership, prior to the vote, constitutes an absolute defense.

Article V: Bylaws, Rules and Amendments

1. Bylaws to implement and clarify the authority and duties of persons and bodies authorized by this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at a State Convention, or by a two-thirds vote of the State Committee. When each State Committee meets for the first time to organize, any Bylaws previously in force shall remain in force unless a two-thirds vote of the State Committee shall specify otherwise, provided that any amendments to the Bylaws shall be consistent with this Constitution and with actions at State Conventions.

2. Each body authorized by this Constitution may adopt rules for its proceedings.

3. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all persons eligible to vote and registered as attending the State Convention at which the vote is being taken, whether or not voting, provided that there is a quorum, if and only if the following conditions are met:

a. The amendment has been approved beforehand by the State Committee, or has been endorsed beforehand by the signatures of at least ten percent of the Members whose dues are current, which amendment and endorsement shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the State Committee, and

b. A copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by mail to each Member of the Organization whose dues are current, postmarked at least two weeks prior to the date of the State Convention in which the amendment is to be considered.



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Appendix H





Home / About



Article I. The State Committee

The State Committee carries on the Association's business between State Conventions. The purpose of the State Committee is to do work toward the Association's political objectives by providing an organizational structure that will:

1. Recruit candidates and help libertarians to run for office;

2. Organize and support local and topical libertarian groups;

3. Perform non-electoral political acts, e.g., referenda, lobbying, and litigation;

4. Recruit Members, helping them to do politics;

5. Educate the public on libertarian political directions;

6. Create circumstances favorable to attaining the Association's Objective, as by creating politically-effective legally-independent PACs, 527 organizations, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations;

7. Raise and spend money to do its work; and

8. Perform needed internal operations.

Article II. Responsibilities of State Committee Members

1. Members of the State Committee are elected at the annual State Convention, to hold office until the end of the next annual State Convention. Between State Conventions, the State Committee may elect additional members to fill vacancies or to expand its size.

2. Only persons who are Members of the Association whose dues are current, are eligible to be Members of the State Committee. To be nominated to the State Committee at the state convention, they must meet the convention participation eligibility requirements as described in Article VI, Paragraph 3 below. AOR040

3. Each member of the State Committee has one vote on all motions before the State Committee, except as specified under the Section on the Audit and Compensation Working Group.

4. By the Chair's discretion, votes taken by the Members of the State Committee may be cast e prescribed by the Technology Facilitator that meets the following requirements:

a) Each member of the State Committee shall be informed immediately upon the opening of v b) Voting shall not be open for a duration longer than seven (7) days.

c) There shall be no mechanism by which a member of the State Committee can alter their vo

5. Each member of the State Committee shall diligently seek to attend all State Committee meetings.

6. Each member of the State Committee will work diligently with all other members to advance the interests of the Association. Each member as a condition of continued State Committee membership agrees to be an active member of at least two Working Groups.

7. Each member of the State Committee shall disclose in writing to the full State Committee any and all conflicts of interest.

8. Members who fail to perform their responsibilities as specified in this Article may be sanctioned by the State Committee. By 2/3 vote, the State Committee may expel one of its own members from the State Committee.

9. No State Committee member shall endorse or support a candidate of another party in a Libertarian party primary, or in a partisan race in which a Libertarian Party member is a candidate. This Bylaw does not apply to the immediate family or significant others of State Committee members. This Bylaw does not apply to State Committee members supplying commercial services as part of and during the course of their usual and regular business.

10. A State Committee member who misses three meetings in a row shall be deemed to have resigned from the State Committee.

Article III. Restrictions on the State Committee

1. State Committee funds may only be spent after authorization by the State Committee. Authorizations are by majority vote of the Committee. Consistent with FEC and OCPF reporting standards, the State Committee shall maintain all financial records and reports on a cash basis.

2. Obligations. To make a contract that persists more than three months beyond the next Regular State Convention, the State Committee must sequester enough money from its current Treasury to pay the full cost of the contract. The State Committee may not vote to AOR041

sequester in total more than 15% of the State Committee's funds to pay contracts. While, as a result of changes in fund balances, more than 15% of the State Committee's funds are sequestered, the sequestered funds remain sequestered, but no additional funds may be sequestered. If money has been raised to pay for a project, and is sequestered to pay for that project, that money when sequestered does not count against the 15% limit.

3. Rules of Order. Rules of Order. All State Committee Meetings are run under Roberts' Rules of Order AS INTERPRETED BY THE VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE unless specifically otherwise provided. APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF ORDER SHALL FACILITATE, NOT OBSTRUCT, THE ADVANCE OF BUSINESS.

4. Neutrality. State Committee funds and employees may not be used to support candidates for election to the State Committee.

5. Employment. State Committee Members may not be paid for their work for the State Committee. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses if the State Committee approves funds for the purpose. Firms owned by State Committee Members may do business with the State Committee, but the State Committee or its designees shall demonstrate to the Membership that the State Committee is paying no more than normal commercial rates.

6. Suspension. The State Committee may not vote to suspend the Bylaws.

Article IV. State Committee Officers

A. Officers Defined

1. The Officers of the State Committee are the Chair, Political Facilitator, Operations Facilitator, Fundraising Director, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Editor, Technology Facilitator, and Archivist. The Officers of the State Committee are elected by majority vote of the voting members of the State Committee. The State Committee may remove an Officer from office by a simple majority vote.

2. Only voting members of the State Committee may serve as Chair, Political Facilitator, Operations Facilitator, Fundraising Director, or Treasurer. All other Offices may be held by any Member of the Association. Officers who are not voting members of the State Committee may speak in State Committee debates involving their areas of responsibility on the same basis as voting members. In the case that a Treasurer ceases to be a member of the State Committee, the Treasurer shall remain in his capacity as Treasurer until the State Committee shall designate a replacement.

3. No person may concurrently serve as more than one of Political Facilitator, Operations Facilitator, or Treasurer. The Chair may not serve as Treasurer.

B. Duties of Officers

All Officers must report monthly to the State Committee. Reports may be given in an electronic format, provided all State Committee members are able to open and read them.

1. The Political Facilitator:

a) oversees and supports candidate recruitment, candidate support, public education, membership outreach, and other political activities;

b) presides at State Committee meetings if the Chair is absent or recuses himself;

c) performs the duties of Chair if the post is vacant.

2. The Operations Facilitator:

a) oversees and supports the non-political activities of the State Committee not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws.

3. The Fundraising Director:

a) conducts fundraising for the association.

4. The Treasurer:

a) maintains the Association's financial records;

b) manages the Association's financial accounts and donation systems;

c) files Federal, State and other financial reports as required by Federal or State law or regulation;

d) is a co-signatory on Association bank accounts;

e) provides a financial report monthly to the State Committee; and

f) serves as comptroller, ensuring that funds are received, spent, and reported in compliance with Law and Association Bylaws and State Committee actions.

g) At each regular state convention, provides a financial report including income and expenditures for the immediately prior October 1 to September 30, and for any immediately prior year on which no report has yet been made.

h) In the case that a Treasurer ceases to be a member of the State Committee, the Treasurer shall remain in his capacity as Treasurer, until the State Committee shall designate a replacement.

5. The Recording Secretary:

a) takes minutes of all State Committee meetings;

b) circulates State Committee minutes to the Membership via the Association Newsletter, web pages, and other means generally accessible to Members; and

c) maintains the electronic archival record of State Committee minutes in a form and location generally accessible to Members.

6. The Membership Secretary:

a) maintains the Membership and mailing list records of the Association, including but not limited to records of current and past Members, people who contacted Association, donors, and volunteers, including names, addresses, other contact information, and volunteer tasks;

b) notifies Members that their Memberships have or will expire;

c) supplies Membership and other information, for the good of the Association, consistent with State Committee policy; and

d) reports monthly to the State Committee on new Memberships, Membership renewals, expirations, and current Membership numbers.

7. The Editor is responsible for publishing the monthly Association newsletter, including print and electronic editions, including or excluding content as the State Committee directs.

8. The Technology Facilitator:

a) maintains the Association web site and other electronic sites; and

b) ensures that Association electronic sites are appropriately owned or registered by the Association, and that multiple Officers have an archival record of electronic site passwords and other needful ownership data.

9. Archivist:

a) Maintains a dated physical file of all State Committee minutes, mailings, and other documents, and associated audio and video recordings.

10. The Chair:

a) presides at all State Committee meetings at which he is present, unless he recuses himself;

b) proposes the agenda for all State Committee meetings;

c) is the honorary spokesman for the Association and

d) assists and inspires Association Members and Chapters to work to achieve our political goals

The term of office of the State Chair ends on December 29 of the year prior to a year in which a Presidential Primary or election is held.

C. Officer Committees

Each Officer may form a committee of Association Members and other volunteers to help perform his duties, but the Officer remains entirely responsible for seeing that those duties are performed.

D. Spending

1. No Officer may spend or commit the spending of Association funds unless those funds have first been appropriated by the State Committee. The State Committee may appropriate contingency funds for an Officer or Officers, to be spent as the Officer or Officers specify, subject to State Committee rules on documentation of expenditures. The State Committee may authorize the payment of regularly recurring bills without separate appropriations.

2. The primary signatory on Association bank accounts shall be the Chair, or another State

Committee member designated by the Chair, and approved by majority vote of the State Committee. The Treasurer shall be a signatory, but shall not serve as primary signatory once the primary signatory has been legally established.

Article V. Working Groups

Section A. Purpose and Structure

1. Working Groups. Working Groups exist to do work for the Association.

2. Permanent Working Groups.

a) The State Committee will identify State Committee members to belong to each working group. Other libertarians who volunteer and contribute in a positive way are welcome to join working groups.

b) Recognizing the current small size of the Association, working groups may well contain only a single member.

3. Facilitators.

a) Each Working Group has a Facilitator. The Facilitator seeks to ensure that her or his Working Group performs its duties.

b) Facilitators chair meetings of their Working Groups. Facilitators report monthly on Working Group activities to the State Committee, and as appropriate to the Web Support and Newsletter Working Groups and to Association Members.

c) Facilitators have no executive decision-making authority independent from their working group.

d) Except as otherwise specified, each Working Group chooses its own Facilitator.

4. Working Groups are expected to perform many activities without staging formal meetings under parliamentary procedure.

5. The State Committee may by majority vote remove a person as a member or Facilitator of a Working Group.

Section B. Permanent Working Groups

1. There shall be permanent working groups for Local Organization, Elections, Political Action, Newsletter, Web Support, Outreach, Membership, Fundraising, Convention, Budget and Finance, and Audit and Compensation.

2. Local Organization.

a) The Local Organization Working Group helps local and topical libertarian organizations. It encourages libertarians to act as local organizers, helps them to organize local and topical groups, and supplies them with information on potential group members. It supports, assists, and publicizes local and topical groups and advises them on possible activities. It develops resources to benefit local and topical groups.

b) The Membership Secretary works with the Local Organization Working Group to develop policies and procedures to provide appropriate local and topical groups with appropriate access to Association database information needed to promote their groups.

c) The Political Facilitator is an ex officio member.

3. Elections.

a) The Elections Working Group helps libertarians win elections. It recruits and trains candidates and volunteers, supports ballot access drives, assists candidates with publications, fundraising, and Get Out The Vote efforts, and collects and distributes useful information to candidates.

b) It works to maintain the honesty of the election process.

c) The Political Facilitator is an ex officio member.

4. Political Action.

a) The Political Action Working Group supports substantive political activities, other than electioneering for elective office. It assists with Referenda and Public Policy Questions, and aids OPH booths, rallies, demonstrations, protests, letter writing campaigns, litigation, and peaceful petitions for redress of grievances.

b) The Political Facilitator is an ex officio member.

5. Newsletter.

a) The Newsletter Working Group helps the Editor edit and publish the Newsletter.

b) The Editor is the facilitator ex officio.

6. Web Support.

a) The Web Support Working Group operates or supports Liberty for Massachusetts Web and Wiki Pages, if any.

b) It seeks to operate State Committee email lists, including a periodical announcements list, a moderated Activists list, and an unmoderated General list.

c) Moderation of the Activist list, or other online activities shall not be used to forward the internal political agenda of the moderator(s). Whenever a message other than obvious commercial spam is rejected for the Activist List, the rejected message and the reason for the rejection shall be sent to the message's author and to the State Committee.

d) The State Committee may adopt a standing rule specifying an alternate mechanism to achieve the objectives of part c.

e) The Technology Facilitator is the facilitator ex officio.

7. Outreach.

a) The Outreach Working Group strives to inform the public about the libertarian direction. It develops and supports publicity and advertising drives, prepares press releases, responds to press inquiries, assists Members with letter-writing drives, and produces and distributes outreach material.

b) The Outreach Working Group includes as ex officio members the Political Facilitator, the Editor, and the Technology Facilitator.

8. Membership.

a) The Membership Working Group recruits and retains Association Members. It contacts new Members to welcome them. It contacts inquirers and invites them to join. It encourages social events, public lectures, and other activities for prospective and current Members. It contacts persons who have ceased to be Members to determine why they left and to invite them to renew.

b) The Membership Working Group includes as ex officio members the Membership Secretary and the Political Facilitator.

9. Fund Raising.

a) The Fund Raising Working Group raises money for the State Committee and its Working Groups, PACs, and 527 and other organizations. It cultivates individual donors, and conducts periodic large scale fund raising campaigns. It is scrupulous in promising donors how their money will be spent, and prompt and accurate in reporting to them and to the Membership on how their money was actually spent.

b) The Fund Raising Working Group has as ex officio members the Political Facilitator, Operations Facilitator, and Treasurer.

10. Convention.

a) The Convention Working Group organizes and conducts the Association's Annual State Convention.

b) The Convention Working Group has as an ex officio member the Operations Facilitator.

11. Budget and Finance

a) The Budget and Finance Working Group monitors the Association's funds and proposes an annual budget.

b) If the State Committee experiences unanticipated income or needs of spending, the Budget and Finance Working Group proposes appropriate budget adjustments.

c) The Budget and Finance Working Group has as ex officio members the Treasurer and Operations Facilitator.

12. Audit and Compensation.

a) The Audit and Compensation Working Group annually and in addition on request of the State Committee reviews the State Committee's financial records, and the financial records of the Working Groups, to ensure that they are complete, accurate, and properly reported to the Membership.

b) It determines if moneys have been received and spent in accord with Association Bylaws, State Committee actions, legal requirements, and fundamental ethical standards.

c) It reports to the Membership and to the State Committee on irregularities, deficiencies, and deviations, and their causes, and recommends corrective measures.

d) The Audit and Compensation Working Group is elected by and from the State Committee members who are not signatories to any State Committee bank or other financial accounts.

e) The Treasurer reports to the Audit and Compensation Working Group, but may not be a member of it.

f) If, in the opinion of the Audit and Compensation Working Group, it is appropriate to employ an outside auditing entity, they shall propose this to the State Committee, which shall vote on the proposal. In such a vote, the Treasurer and all signatories to any State Committee bank or other financial accounts are ineligible to vote.

Section C. Ad Hoc Working Groups

The State Committee may form ad hoc working groups to perform tasks of limited, fixed duration.

Article VI. State Convention

1. The State Committee shall hold a state convention in October of each year. The State Committee is responsible for scheduling, organizing, and publicizing the convention. It may delegate tasks to such persons as it chooses, but remains responsible for the State Convention's conduct.

2. At least thirty days before a State Convention is held, the State Committee will notify all Association Members whose dues are current, of the date, location, and time of the State Convention. This notification may be sent by whatever forms of communication are likely to reach all members, which shall include printed notification to each member.

3. Only persons who are Members of the Association whose dues are current, and who joined the Association at least one month prior to the date of the state convention, are eligible to vote or participate in the business meeting at the state convention. Persons who were: 1) dues-paying Members of the Association within the past three years, but whose dues are not current, or 2) persons who are Sustaining Members of the National Party, and who were Sustaining Members of the National Party at least one month prior to the state convention, may join or renew their Association Membership at the state convention by paying their yearly dues. They may then participate in the business meeting at the State Convention.

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4. It shall be out of order to adjourn the State Convention (i) before the new State Committee is elected, and (ii) if the National Convention occurs prior to the next State Convention, before at least one delegate to the next National Convention is elected. The State Convention agenda shall include at least fifteen minutes for presentation of Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. All amendments must be presented to the Corresponding Secretary, by paper or electronic mail, at least 14 days prior to the day of the State Convention, must be posted by the Secretary in a publicly-accessible Association-controlled electronic forum at least seven days before the day of the state convention, and must be seconded from the convention floor, before they may be considered. Amendments to amendments made from the convention floor must be germane.

5. To elect the new State Committee, the chair asks for nominations from the floor. Self nominations are allowed. Seconds are not required for nominations. Each nominee must accept nomination, or must have submitted to the Recording Secretary a written statement stating that their nomination will be accepted, before their nomination is valid. Nominations for persons ineligible to serve are invalid. When no more nominations are forthcoming from the floor, the Chair invites nominees to speak. Each nominee is allowed up to two minutes to speak. If a nominee is absent, he or she may designate a substitute to speak for them for up to two minutes. Persons eligible to vote are then given one hour to cast their votes. The Convention may recess or engage in other business during this time. If a recess is taken, the time counts toward the hour, but the convention must be back in session at least ten minutes prior to the close of voting. A ballot collector or collectors and location must be specified, and must remain supervised through the voting period.

6. Each person present and eligible to vote at the State Convention may cast a ballot for electing State Committee members. The ballot will list the names, and a vote of YES, NO, or ABSTAIN for each nominee. If a particular candidate is not listed on a particular ballot, the vote is recorded as "ABSTAIN".

7. The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes minus number of NO votes, are elected, up to a total of nine persons elected. A nominee who receives more "No" than "Yes" votes is not elected to the State Committee, and may not be appointed to the State Committee prior to the next State Convention. If there is a tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, a fresh vote is taken with only the persons in the tie placed on the ballot. The nominees who receive the most votes, computed as number of YES votes minus number of NO votes, are again elected, up to a total of nine persons elected in both rounds of voting. If there is a further tie, in such a way that not all persons in the tie can be elected without exceeding the size limit of the State Committee, the persons in the tie are not elected.

8. Proxy votes are not allowed at the State Convention. However, a person who is in attendance at the State Convention, and who is eligible to vote, may cast a ballot for State₀₅₀

