

RULES OF THE NASSAU COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY

ARTICLE I

IDENTITY

The Nassau County Libertarian Party is a county committee of the Libertarian Party of New York within the meaning of the Rules of the Libertarian Party as duly adopted and filed with the New York State Board of Elections.

ARTICLE II

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

The Nassau County Libertarian Party is a political organization which has as its primary objective the extension of individual freedom to its furthest limits. To that end the Party affirms the following principles as embodied in the Rules and platform of the Libertarian Party of New York:

- A. Each individual possesses the inalienable right to life, liberty and justly acquired property.
- B. No person or institution, public or private, has the right to initiate the use of force or fraud against another.
- C. Individuals are entitled to choose their own lifestyles so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the lives of others.
- D. The only moral purpose of government is the preservation of individual rights.
- E. The voluntary exchange of goods and services is essential for a free and prosperous society of individuals of diverse beliefs.

In recognition of the fact that the initiation of force by government has been the chief instrument for the expropriation of individual rights and freedom, the Nassau County Libertarian Party enters the political arena for the avowed purpose of eliminating the intervention of government in moral, social and economic affairs by functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements and moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.

Article III

MEMBERSHIP

There shall be three classes of membership:

A. **Elected members** are individuals who have been elected or appointed to the position of Member of County Committee in Nassau County.

B. **Full members** are elected members who have signed and submitted the following pledge: “I hereby subscribe to the Principles and Objectives of the Libertarian Party of New York and do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.”

C. **Supporting members** are individuals who have paid dues as set by the Executive Committee and are either full members or have completed a membership application as determined and accepted by the Executive Committee, signed the pledge indicated in the previous paragraph, and are not enrolled in any other recognized party whose candidate for governor received the highest or second highest number of votes on all lines combined in the preceding gubernatorial election. Supporting members shall be entitled to attend and fully participate in all events unless prohibited by law or these Rules.

Individuals who are both full and supporting members shall hereinafter be referred to as “full supporting members”.

ARTICLE IV

COUNTY COMMITTEE

1. **Election.** Elected members shall be elected biennially at the primary election, and shall hold office until the next election at which members of the County Committee are elected. [2-106] Two (2) elected members shall be selected to represent each election district. If twenty-five percent (25%) of the elected members have been elected, the County Committee shall be deemed “legally constituted”.

2. **Qualifications.** If legally constituted, each member of the County Committee shall be an enrolled voter of the Libertarian Party residing in the county and in the assembly district containing the election district in which such member is elected except that a member who, as a result of an alteration of assembly district lines, no longer resides within such assembly district may continue to serve for the balance of the term to which he was elected. [2-104]

3. **Organization.** Every County Committee shall meet no earlier than September seventeenth and no later than October sixth following the June primary and organize by electing a Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, which officers shall be supporting members of the Nassau County Libertarian Party and, if the County Committee has been legally constituted, shall additionally be enrolled members of the

Libertarian Party. Until such organization meeting, the existing County Committee shall exercise all legal authority. Upon the conclusion of such organization meeting, the new County Committee shall assume all legal authority vested in the previously organized County Committee. Within three (3) days after the organization meeting the County Committee shall file in the office of the state and county boards of elections a certificate stating the names and post office addresses of such officers. [2-112]

A. **Chair.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the County Committee. The Chair shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of Chair and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to the Chair by the County Committee.

B. **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings of the County Committee and shall keep these records up-to-date and in order in the master book containing the official minutes. At each meeting, the Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous meeting for approval. In all elections and roll call votes, the Secretary shall call the roll of the registered members and shall keep an accurate tally of such votes. The Secretary may designate an agent to aid in or perform any of the foregoing duties.

C. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall receive and give receipts for all moneys paid to the Party and shall deposit same in such bank or banks as shall have been designated by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall present a written report at each meeting of the Executive Committee or at any other time when so requested by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, present the financial records of the Party for audit by such auditor(s) as the Executive Committee shall specify. Expenditures of funds shall be made only in accordance with regulations established by the Executive Committee. At least once per year, the Treasurer shall send a dues renewal notice, if necessary, to each supporting member of the Party. The Treasurer may designate an agent to aid in or perform any of the foregoing duties.

4. **Meetings.** The County Committee may be called into session as needed by the Chair, by the Executive Committee, or by a petition signed by five percent (5%) of the current supporting members in good standing submitted to the Secretary or the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall set the location and hour of all meetings of the County Committee, and shall be responsible for all necessary arrangements. Meetings called by petition shall be set for no more than sixty (60) days after submission of the petition. The Executive Committee shall send notice of the meeting to all members of the County Committee not more than fifty (50) nor fewer than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting. Meetings shall be held within Nassau County. A majority of the elected members but no fewer than five (5) members shall constitute quorum.

5. **Voting.** Each supporting member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote, unless the County Committee has been legally constituted, in which case each elected member shall be entitled to cast half as many votes as were cast for the Libertarian Party candidate in the previous gubernatorial election in the election district he represents. If such election district was created or changed since the last election for member of assembly, each member representing such election district shall be entitled to

cast half the proportion of votes cast for the Libertarian Party candidate for governor as the number of enrolled Libertarians residing in such election district bears to the total Party enrollment. If the presiding officer is entitled to vote, he may vote only when the vote is by ballot or his vote would change the result. Instant Runoff voting shall be permitted.

6. Proxy voting. Members may designate another member to vote in their stead by proxy, which must be submitted to the Secretary in writing. Members may hold the proxy of no more than one member and must be registered as being in attendance at the meeting for the proxy to be in effect. The proxy of any elected member who is not registered as being in attendance at any meeting of the County Committee and does not have an executed proxy in effect shall be held and may be voted by the Judicial Committee, which may cast such proxy votes as determined by a majority of the Judicial Committee at which a quorum of the Judicial Committee is present. Members whose proxy is held by the Judicial Committee or by another member shall be considered present for quorum and voting purposes.

7. Vacancy. If legally constituted, the County Committee, upon its organization after the election of its members, or at any time thereafter, may determine that a vacancy or vacancies exists by reason of an increase in the number of election districts within the county occasioned by a change of the boundaries of one or more election districts, taking effect after such election, and may determine the districts that the elected members shall represent until the next election at which members of such committee are elected. In such case, or the case of the death, declination, enrollment in another party, removal from the unit or removal from office of a member, or the failure to nominate or elect a member, the vacancy created thereby shall be filled by the remaining members of the County Committee by the selection of an enrolled member qualified for election from the election district in which such vacancy shall have occurred. [2-118]

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1. Authority.** All authority to which a political party is entitled not reserved to other committees by law or these Rules shall be vested in the Executive Committee.
- 2. Qualifications.** Elected members shall be, at the time of their election and continuously thereafter, supporting members who either (a) were, for a continuous five (5) year period, either an enrolled member of the Libertarian Party or a supporting member of the Nassau County Libertarian Party, or (b) held membership in the Nassau County Libertarian Party or the Libertarian Party of New York any time prior to January 1, 2020.
- 3. Officers.** The officers of the Executive Committee and their duties shall be as follows:
 - A. Chair.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of Chair and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to the Chair by the Executive Committee.

B. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair. Among the responsibilities which may be delegated to the Vice Chair by the Chair or the Executive Committee are the operations of the Party headquarters, production of the Party Newsletter, promotion of county committees and Party membership and development of literature for distribution.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Executive Committee and shall keep these records up-to-date and in order in the master book containing the official minutes. At each meeting, the Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous meeting for approval. In all elections and roll call votes, the Secretary shall call the roll of the registered members and shall keep an accurate tally of such votes. The Secretary may designate an agent to aid in or perform any of the foregoing duties.

4. Elected members. The Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and one Member At Large for every fifty (50) elected members and remaining portion thereof of the County Committee shall constitute the elected membership of the Executive Committee. Such members shall be elected by the County Committee at its biennial organization meeting and shall serve until the close of the next biennial organization meeting.

5. Ex officio members. The officers of the County Committee and the outgoing Chair of the Executive Committee at the most recent election for that office, if any, shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee. Ex officio members shall be under no obligation to participate in meetings of the Executive Committee and shall not be counted for quorum purposes. Ex officio members shall be entitled to vote only if they meet the membership qualifications of the elected members of the Executive Committee.

6. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet in person or by teleconference at least quarterly, with one meeting to be held in person at the close of the biennial organization meeting of the County Committee. Meetings shall be called by the Chair, the Executive Committee, or by petition of one-third (1/3) of the members of the Executive Committee. Five (5) calendar days' written notice to all voting members in good standing of the Executive Committee shall be required unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise. A waiver of notice signed before or after a meeting, or attendance without protest, shall preclude any objection for lack of notice. Meetings held in person shall be held within Nassau County. The attendance at any meeting of the Executive committee of a majority of the elected members, including at least one officer, shall constitute quorum.

7. Voting. Each member of the Executive Committee who is entitled to vote shall have a single vote. The presiding officer may vote only when the vote is by ballot or his vote would change the result. Any member may demand a roll call vote on any main motion.

8. Internet voting. The Executive Committee may conduct mail balloting via the internet. The wording of a motion to be approved by internet balloting shall be vetted online for at least seventy-two (72) hours before being submitted to a vote to ensure that it is phrased in a concise, unambiguous, and complete form appropriate to its purpose.

9. Appointed officers and subcommittees. The Executive Committee shall have sole authority to constitute and appoint Party officers, directors, and subcommittees, and shall have the authority to delegate its powers to such agents.

10. Vacancy. In the event that any elected position on the Executive Committee shall become vacant due to the resignation, incapacity, ineligibility, or removal by disciplinary proceeding of a member, or the failure of the biennial organization meeting of the State Committee to elect a member to such position, the Executive Committee shall select an eligible member of the Party to fill the vacancy. For such vacancy in the office of Chair, the Vice Chair shall fill the position. In the event that the Chair is not present or otherwise relinquishes the chair at a meeting, the Vice Chair shall preside, or the Secretary shall preside if neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair is available.

11. Expenditure limitations. No funds shall be spent in support of any nominee for Party office nor any designee for public office while more than one designee remains in contest for the nomination. No loans shall be made to any member of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

1. Composition. The Judicial Committee shall be comprised of all members of the County Committee who either (a) were, for a continuous fifteen (15) year period, either an enrolled member of the Libertarian Party or a supporting member of the Nassau County Libertarian Party, or (b) held membership in the Libertarian Party of New York any time prior to September 1, 2010 but whose membership was not terminated.

2. Organization. The members of the Judicial Committee present at the first meeting of the County Committee subsequent to its election shall meet to elect a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary.

3. Meetings. The Judicial Committee shall convene at every meeting of the County Committee. Meetings may also be called by the County Committee for the purpose of conducting a hearing upon written charges and notice given of disloyalty to the Party or corruption in office of a member of the County Committee. Meetings may also be called, either by the Executive Committee or by a petition declaring the issue in dispute signed by two percent (2%) of the current supporting members in good standing submitted to the Secretary or Chair of the Judicial Committee, for the purpose of issuing an opinion on a matter in dispute. The Chair of the Judicial Committee shall set the hour and location of any such meeting, which shall be held within thirty (30) days and may be held by teleconference, and the Secretary shall issue to the members the call of the meeting at least five (5) days in advance. Quorum shall consist of three (3) members.

4. Participation. It shall be at the discretion of each member of the Judicial Committee whether to participate in each matter the committee is called upon to consider. Members may waive their entitlement to participate either explicitly or by failure to timely respond to the call. Members who

have waived their entitlement to participate in a matter shall only be allowed to participate and vote in meetings held to consider such matter with the permission of the participating members.

5. Voting. The votes of the members of the Judicial Committee shall count equally. At meetings of the County Committee, the proxy votes held by the Judicial Committee shall be cast as determined by majority vote. For votes by Instant Runoff, the ranked choice ballot to cast the proxy votes held by the Judicial Committee shall be determined by a series of counts of each member's ranked ballot to determine each ballot choice. Opinions, dissents and concurrences issued by the Judicial Committee shall be signed by the members who support them.

6. Vacancy. In the event that any of the elected positions on the Judicial Committee shall become vacant due to the resignation, incapacity, ineligibility, or removal by disciplinary proceeding of a member, the Judicial Committee shall select another of its members to fill the vacancy. In the event that the Chair is not present or otherwise relinquishes the chair at a meeting, the Vice Chair shall preside. If neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair is available, the Secretary shall preside. If neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair nor the Secretary is available, the members present shall select a chair *pro tem* to preside.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTIONS

1. Party calls. The Chair of the County Committee or his designee shall file with the board of elections not later than two (2) weeks before the first day on which designating petitions for a primary election may be signed, a statement of the Party positions to be filled by such Party at such primary election, and the number of persons to be elected to each position. [2-120]

2. Eligibility. A person shall not be designated or nominated for a public office or Party position who (1) is not a citizen of the state of New York; (2) is ineligible to be elected to such office or position; or (3) who, if elected will not at the time of commencement of the term of such office or position, meet the constitutional or statutory qualifications thereof or, with respect to judicial office, who will not meet such qualifications within thirty (30) days of the commencement of the term of such office. [6-122]

3. Nomination. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, all Party nominations of candidates for offices to be filled at a general election shall be made at the primary election, and the designation of a candidate for Party nomination at a primary election and the nomination of a candidate for election to a Party position to be elected at a primary election shall be by designating petition. [6-108, 110, 118]

4. Special election nomination. Where the political subdivision of the office for which the nomination is to be made is entirely contained within Nassau County, and no Party committee representing such political subdivision has been established pursuant to the Rules of the Libertarian Party, such nomination shall be made by the Executive Committee. Where the political subdivision of the office for which the nomination is to be made lies partly within and partly without Nassau County, and no

Party committee representing such political subdivision has been established pursuant to the Rules of the Libertarian Party, the Executive Committee shall assume and exercise all authority allowed under the Rules of the Libertarian Party to make such nomination.

5. Non-Libertarian candidate. No Party designation or nomination shall be valid unless the person so designated or nominated shall be an enrolled member of the Libertarian Party at the time of the filing of the certificate of designation or nomination, except as follows. Where all or part of the political subdivision of the office for which the designation or nomination is to be made lies within Nassau County and no Party committee representing such political subdivision has been established pursuant to the Rules of the Libertarian Party, such designation or nomination shall be valid if duly authorized by the Executive Committee. The certificate of authorization shall be filed not later than four (4) days after the last day to file the designating petition, certificate of nomination or certificate of substitution to which such authorization relates. The certificate of authorization shall be signed and acknowledged by the presiding officer and the secretary of the meeting at which such authorization was given. [6-120]

6. Vacancy. A Party nomination of a candidate for election to fill a vacancy in an elective office required to be filled at the next general election, occurring after seven (7) days before the last day for circulating designating petitions or after the holding of the meeting or convention to nominate or designate candidates for such, shall be made, after the day of the primary election, by a majority vote of a quorum of the members of the County Committee and other Libertarian Party county committees last elected in the political subdivision in which such vacancy is to be filled. [6-116]

ARTICLE VIII

VILLAGE ELECTIONS

1. Nomination. Party nominations of candidates for offices of a village in Nassau County shall be made at a Party caucus. A village shall be deemed to be located within Nassau County if more than fifty percent (50%) of the population of the village as shown by the last federal decennial, or special census resides in that portion of the village located in Nassau County. [6-200, 15-108(2)(a)]

2. Village Chair. In the event there is no village committee with a chairman, the Chair of the County Committee shall designate an enrolled member of the Libertarian Party who is a qualified voter of the village as the Village Election Chair. The Chair of the County Committee shall file with the board of elections, at least one week before the first day to file designating petitions for the primary elections, a list of the name and address of the Village Chair or Village Election Chair in each village making nominations. Such Village Chair or Village Election Chair shall have general Party responsibility for the conduct of the village caucus. Such nominations shall be made not more than fifty-six (56), nor less than forty-nine (49) days prior to the date of the village election. [6-202(1)]

3. Notice. Notice shall be given by the proper authorities by posting such notice in the public areas at the offices of the village clerk and the board of elections and by filing such notice with such clerk and

such board at least ten (10) days preceding the day of the caucus and, either by newspaper publication thereof once within the village at least one week and not more than two (2) weeks preceding the caucus, or by posting such notice in six (6) public places in the village at least ten (10) days preceding the day of the caucus. The notice shall specify the time and place or places, and the purpose of such caucus, including the offices for which candidates will be nominated thereat. [6-102(3),(4), 15-108(2)(c),(d)]

4. Procedure. There shall be a chairman and a secretary and tellers for each such caucus, who shall be appointed by the appropriate Party officials. No person shall participate in such caucus who is not a resident of the village and an enrolled voter of the Libertarian Party. The person eligible and receiving the highest number of votes for an office shall be deemed nominated. [6-202(4), 15-108(2)(d)]

5. Certificate of nomination. Any Party nomination made at any such caucus shall be evidenced by the filing of a certificate of nomination with the board of elections in the form prescribed by law not earlier than fifty-four (54) days nor later than forty-seven (47) days preceding the village election. There shall be filed, together with such certificate, or within five (5) days after the board of elections sends the notice of failure to file, a list of enrolled members of the Libertarian Party who have participated in such caucus. Such list shall be certified by the presiding officer or secretary of such caucus. [6-202(5), 210, 15-108(2)(e)]

ARTICLE IX

PARTICIPATION AND ASSOCIATION

1. Observation. Supporting members in good standing shall be entitled to observe committee meetings and conventions, except when in executive session or when necessary to maintain orderly meetings.

2. Participation. Only supporting members may personally attend and vote at committee meetings and conventions. Any supporting member who is thirty (30) days in arrears and fails to pay dues within thirty (30) days of being notified of that fact shall be subject to suspension of his committee membership or delegate status and entitlement to attend and vote therein.

3. Removal. A member or officer of the County Committee may be removed by such committee for disloyalty to the Libertarian Party or corruption in office after notice is given and a hearing upon written charges has been had. The hearing shall be held by the County Committee, or a subcommittee thereof appointed for that purpose, which subcommittee shall report its findings to the full committee.

[2-116] Willful failure to satisfy membership requirements as stated in these Rules shall constitute disloyalty to the Libertarian Party.

4. Termination. The Chair of the County Committee may, upon a written complaint by an enrolled member in Nassau County and after a hearing held by him or by a subcommittee appointed by him upon at least two (2) days' notice to the voter, personally or by mail, determine that a voter enrolled in

Nassau County is not in sympathy with the principles of the Party. Following a continued public course of action knowing it to be contrary to the principles and objectives of the Libertarian Party as set forth in Article II, knowingly and falsely claiming to represent the Libertarian Party, or seriously and repeatedly disrupting meetings or activities of the Libertarian Party shall be dispositive evidence that the voter is not in sympathy with the principles of the Party. Any enrolled member of the Party may institute a proceeding at least ten (10) days before a primary election before the Supreme Court or a justice thereof within the judicial district to direct the enrollment of such voter to be cancelled if it appears from the proceedings before such chair or subcommittee, and other proofs, if any, presented, that such determination is just. [16-110(2)]

ARTICLE X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Libertarian Party and all committees thereof in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Party Rules and any special rules of order each committee may adopt.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENT

1. **Vote.** If the County Committee has been legally constituted, these Rules may be amended or new rules adopted from time to time by a majority vote of the members of the County Committee present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, provided a copy of the proposed amendment shall be sent with the notice of the meeting at which such amendment is to be proposed, such notice to be mailed not less than twenty-five (25) days before such meeting to the post office address of each member of the County Committee. [2-114 (2)] Otherwise, these Rules may be amended at a meeting of the County Committee at which there is a quorum either by a three-fourths (3/4) vote upon the request of ten percent (10%) of the voting members in attendance or, if the amendment has been proposed by the Executive Committee and written notice including the text of the amendment has been sent to each member in good standing not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days in advance, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

2. **Certification.** Within ten (10) days after the adoption of any rule or amendment thereto a certified copy thereof shall be filed by the County Committee in the office of the state board of elections and in the office of the Nassau County Board of Elections. If a section or portion of such rules relate to the nomination of candidates for village office, such section or portion of such rules shall be filed in the office of the village clerk of all villages in which elections are conducted by the village and in which the Party makes any nominations for village office. No rule or amendment thereof shall be effective until

the filing thereof in the office of the state board of elections. Such rules shall continue to be the rules for the committee until they are amended or new rules adopted. [2-114 (1)]

3. **Principles.** The statement of Principles and Objectives in Article II shall not be amended except to replicate the statement of Principles and Objectives as it appears in the Libertarian Party Platform and then only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the County Committee. This provision shall not be amended but by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the entire County Committee.

PROVISO RELATING TO TRANSITION

The foregoing Rules notwithstanding, upon the adoption of these Rules, the previously existing County Committee shall continue until the 2020 organizational meeting, during which time it shall exercise all legal authority of both the County and Executive Committees.