

# **BYLAWS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBERTARIAN ORGANIZATION**

As approved at the Annual Convention on June 18, 2005

## **Article I. Organization**

The name of this organization shall be the Suffolk County Libertarian Party (the "Suffolk LO"). The Suffolk LO is a County Organization as defined in the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of New York ("LPNY").

## **Article II. Objectives**

The Suffolk LO is a political organization that has as its primary objective the extension of individual freedom to its furthest limits, subject to reasonable prohibitions to prevent the initiation of force and the perpetration of fraud. In recognition of the fact that the force of government has been used as an instrument for the expropriation of individual rights and freedom, the Suffolk LO enters the political arena for the avowed purpose of limiting the intervention of government to the prevention of violence against persons and property, as well as of fraud, and the development and protection of individual property rights.

## **Article III. Membership**

A. Membership in the Suffolk LO shall be open to any individual who submits a completed Membership Application as determined by the County Committee, who is a member in good standing of the state and national Libertarian Parties, and who pays dues as determined by the County Committee.

B. Dues for membership shall be set by the County Committee. Annual memberships shall expire on the last day of the month which is one year after dues were last paid.

## **Article IV. Conventions and Meetings**

### **A. Conventions**

1. The Suffolk LO shall hold an Annual Convention between January 1 and June 30 of each year. The Annual Convention shall elect officers and may endorse candidates for public office, adopt or amend bylaws, and adopt policy resolutions. The Annual Convention may be conducted jointly with the Annual Convention of the Nassau County Libertarian Party.

2. Special Conventions may also be called at any time for any particular purpose by either (1) the County Committee, or (2) anyone who makes a written request to the Chair or Secretary, which declares who is calling for the Special Convention and for what purpose, and is signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the members in good standing of the Suffolk LO. Only subjects which directly relate to the purpose for which the Special Convention is called may be considered at any Special Convention.

3. Written notice shall be provided to each Suffolk LO member in good standing not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of any Convention. Such notice

shall include the date, time and location of the Convention, and, for Special Conventions, shall also include who is calling the Special Convention and for what purpose. Attendance without protest at any Convention by any member shall constitute a waiver of notice, as shall the signing of a waiver of notice before or after the Convention.

4. Conventions shall be held in Suffolk County, except in the case of a joint Annual Convention with the Nassau County Libertarian Party, in which case, the convention shall be held in Suffolk or Nassau County.

5. Any individual who shall have been a member in good standing of the Suffolk LO for the fifteen (15) days prior to any Convention, and who is present at that Convention, shall be entitled to vote at that Convention. No voting by proxy shall be permitted.

6. Ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing of the Suffolk LO must be present to commence or re-commence any Convention. For the purpose of voting at the Convention, a quorum shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of the voting members in attendance at the Convention, but not less than five (5) persons. No decision requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum.

#### B. General Meetings

The County Committee shall schedule and hold General Meetings open to all members of the Suffolk LO on a monthly basis.

### **Article V. Officers**

A. The officers of the Suffolk LO shall be the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.

#### B. Duties

1. The Chair shall preside at all Suffolk LO General Meetings and Conventions, shall act as administrator and spokesperson, and shall have such other authority as granted by the County Committee. The Chair shall be a resident of Suffolk County when elected. The Chair shall be, or appoint, the Suffolk LO representative to the state committee of the LPNY.

2. The Vice Chair shall act as associate to the Chair, and shall be a resident of Suffolk County when elected.

3. The Secretary shall create and keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of all Conventions and General Meetings, and all meetings of the County Committee. 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 members and keep an accurate tally of such votes.

4. The Treasurer shall collect, hold, and disburse funds, maintain records of all financial transactions, and provide reports of financial status at meetings as directed by the

County Committee, and at least annually. Each month, the Treasurer shall send a renewal notice to each member of the Suffolk LO whose membership is due to expire than month.

C. Separate elections shall be held at the Annual Convention for each office above, in which those elected must receive a majority of the votes cast.

D. In the event that an election to fill any party office cannot be held due to the inability to convene a Convention or gather a quorum to vote at any Convention, the County Committee shall call a Special Convention for the purpose of electing a new officer as soon as practical.

E. Nominations for all offices shall be from the floor. Nominating committees shall not be permitted.

F. All elected officers shall serve until the close of the Convention at which their successor is elected, or until such time as they are no longer able to serve or are removed from membership in the Suffolk LO, at which time the Chair shall select their replacement, or if the Chair's position is to be filled, the Vice Chair shall become Chair.

G. To be eligible for election, a person must be a member in good standing of the Suffolk LO.

H. Any officer may be impeached for good cause by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the County Committee, or upon submission to the Chair or Secretary of a petition to that effect signed by at least one-half (1/2) of the members in good standing of the Suffolk LO. The County Committee shall then call a Special Convention to consider the matter, at which such officer may be removed from office by two-thirds (2/3) vote.

## **Article VI. County Committee**

A. All executive authority to which a private organization is entitled, and which is not limited by these bylaws, by the bylaws of the LPNY, or applicable law, shall be vested in the County Committee.

B. The County Committee shall consist of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Each member of the County Committee shall be entitled to a single vote, except the Chair, who shall only vote in case of a tie and in any vote requiring more than a simple majority. A quorum shall be considered present whenever a majority of the members of the County Committee, including the Chair, are present.

C. The County Committee shall meet at least once annually, at the close of the Annual Convention. Meetings of the County Committee shall be held in Suffolk County, except upon the consent, in each instance, of every member of the County Committee.

D. Meetings may be called by (1) the Chair, (2) the County Committee, or (3) a written request submitted to the Chair or Secretary signed by one-third (1/3) of the members of the County Committee. The Secretary shall notify each member of the County Committee of any

meeting at least five (5) days in advance, unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise. Attendance without protest at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice, as shall the signing of a waiver of notice before of after the meeting.

E. The County Committee shall not have the authority to expend any Suffolk LO funds in support of any candidate for public office not endorsed in accordance with these bylaws.

F. The County Committee shall not have the authority to lend money to any officer of the Suffolk LO or to otherwise engage in a material commercial transaction with any officer of the Suffolk LO without approval in each case of a majority of the disinterested County Committee members, after full disclosure of all material facts pertaining to the transaction.

G. All meetings of the County Committee shall be open to observation by all members in good standing of the Suffolk LO, limited only by the need for orderly meetings.

## **Article VII. Endorsements**

A. Candidates for public office whose jurisdiction lies partly or entirely within Suffolk County may be endorsed by a majority vote at any Convention.

B. Such candidates may also be endorsed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the County Committee, except that candidates to be on the general election ballot may not be endorsed by the County Committee prior to the Annual Convention for that year.

C. The Suffolk LO may withdraw its endorsement of any candidate for public office by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the County Committee.

## **Article VIII. Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended by any of the following procedures:

1. The County Committee may, by majority vote, propose an amendment. Notice of the proposed amendment, including the text of the amendment, shall be mailed to each member in good standing of the Suffolk LO not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Convention. The amendment passes upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members of the Convention.

2. A Special Convention may be called for this purpose, at which a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required for ratification. The notice of the Special Convention shall include the text of the proposed amendment.

3. The proposed amendment may be entered on the agenda of the Annual Convention by any voting member submitting the proposal in writing to the Secretary before consideration of the matter of amendments is concluded, and at the request of ten percent (10%) of the voting members; a three-fourths (3/4) vote shall be required for ratification.

## **Article IX. Procedural Rules**

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority governing all matters of procedure not in conflict with these bylaws at all Conventions and all meetings of the County Committee.