

# BYLAWS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LIBERTARIAN ORGANIZATION

## Article I. Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Suffolk County Libertarian Party (the “SCLP”). The SCLP is a **County Organization** as defined in the **rules** of the Libertarian Party of New York (“LPNY”).

## Article II. Objectives

The SCLP 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 SCLP 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 SCLP shall be open to any individual who submits a completed Membership Application as determined by the **Executive** Committee **and** who pays dues as determined by the **Executive** Committee.
- B. Dues for membership shall be set by the **Executive** Committee. Annual memberships shall expire on the last day of the month which is one year after dues were last paid.
- C. A member in good standing is a member who has fulfilled sections A and B of membership, and who has paid dues at least 15 days before any chapter regular business votes.
- D. **Any person registered to vote in Suffolk County under the “Libertarian” or “Other – Libertarian” party registration is automatically considered a member in good standing.**

## Article IV. Conventions and Meetings

### A. Conventions

1. The SCLP 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 **Executive** 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 SCLP. 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 SCLP 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. Electronic transmission, such as emailing and other forms of digital transmission shall serve as proper notification by mail. Receiving such notice does not constitute membership in good standing, each member must ascertain from the committee treasurer or other official sources to determine if they are in good standing. 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. Each SCLP member in good standing (see article III) on December 31 of the prior year and on the date of any SCLP Convention shall be entitled to one vote at such SCLP Convention. The Convention shall have the discretion to allow other members in good standing, on a person by person basis, to vote on any or all matters unless three (3) members who are entitled to vote object. No voting by proxy shall be permitted.

6. Ten percent (10%) of the members in good standing of the SCLP 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

1. The **Executive** Committee shall schedule and hold General Meetings open to all members of the SCLP on a monthly basis.

#### **Article V. Officers**

A. The officers of the SCLP shall be the Chair, two Vice Chairs (First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair), the Secretary, and the Treasurer. An officer of the SCLP may not hold office in any other county LP, however an officer of the SCLP may hold state Libertarian Party and/or National Libertarian Party positions, according to the rules of the respective state and national party bylaws. A prospective officer must be a member in good standing for a

minimum of 120 days prior to election membership, unless this provision is suspended by a majority vote at an annual convention.

## B. Duties

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

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

a. The First Vice Chair shall be responsible for coordinating and facilitating election activities, petitions and vetting/endorsement activities. If a special election committee is appointed by the Chair to aid in these activities, the First Vice Chair will be the liaison to the committee and the Chair, and the head of the election committee.

b. The Second Vice Chair shall be responsible for fundraising, promotion, and recruitment activities. If a special fundraising or recruiting committee is appointed by the chair to aid in these activities, the Second Vice Chair will be the liaison to the committee and the Chair, and the head of the fundraising, promotion, or recruiting committee.

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 **Executive** 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 **Executive** Committee, and at least annually. Each month, the Treasurer shall send a renewal notice to each member of the SCLP 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 **Executive** 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 SCLP, at which time the Chair shall select their replacement, or if the Chair's position is to be filled, the First Vice Chair shall become Chair.
- G. To be eligible for election, a person must be a member in good standing of the SCLP.
- H. Any officer may be impeached for good cause by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the **Executive** 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 SCLP. The **Executive** 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. Executive Committee**

- A. All executive authority to which a **political** 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 **Executive** Committee.
- B. The **Executive** Committee shall consist of officers as defined in Article V of these rules. Each member of the **Executive** 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 **Executive** Committee, including the Chair, are present.
- C. The **Executive** Committee shall meet at least once annually, at the close of the Annual Convention. Meetings of the **Executive** Committee shall be held in Suffolk County, except upon the consent, in each instance, of every member of the **Executive** Committee.
- D. Meetings may be called by (1) the Chair, (2) the **Executive** Committee, or (3) a written request submitted to the Chair or Secretary signed by one-third (1/3) of the members of the **Executive** Committee. The Secretary shall notify each member of the **Executive** 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 **Executive** Committee shall not have the authority to expend any SCLP funds in support of any candidate for public office not endorsed in accordance with these bylaws.

- F. The **Executive** Committee shall not have the authority to lend money to any officer of the SCLP or to otherwise engage in a material commercial transaction with any officer of the SCLP without approval in each case of a majority of the disinterested **Executive** Committee members, after full disclosure of all material facts pertaining to the transaction.
- G. All meetings of the **Executive** Committee shall be open to observation by all members in good standing of the SCLP, 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 **Executive** Committee. **After but not including 2019**, candidates to be on the general election ballot may not be endorsed by the **Executive** Committee prior to the Annual Convention for that year.
- C. The SCLP may withdraw its endorsement of any candidate for public office by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the **Executive** Committee.

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

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

1. The **Executive** 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 SCLP not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Convention. Electronic transmission, such as emailing and other forms of digital transmission shall serve as proper notification by mail. Receiving such notice does not constitute membership in good standing, each member must ascertain from the committee treasurer or other official sources to determine if they are in good standing. 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 **Executive** Committee.