

**Libertarian Party of New York  
Capital District Chapter  
By-laws as amended  
May 14, 2013**

# Libertarian Party of New York – Capital Region Chapter

## Article I: Principles and Objectives

The Libertarian Party of New York Capital District Chapter 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:

- A. That each individual possesses the inalienable right to life and liberty and to justly acquired property.
- B. That no person or institution, public or private, has the right to initiate the use of physical force or to commit fraud against another.
- C. That all individuals are entitled to choose their own lifestyles, as long as they do not forcibly impose their values on others.
- D. That the only moral basis of politics is the preservation and protection of individual rights.
- E. That the voluntary and unrestricted exchange of goods and services is fundamental to a peaceful and harmonious society that is respectful of divergent life styles and value systems.

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 Libertarian Party enters the political arena for the avowed purpose of eliminating the intervention of government in moral, social and economic affairs.

## Article II: Geographic Boundaries

The Capital District Chapter shall serve as the County Organizations of the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) for the following counties: Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren and Washington.

The Capital District Chapter is committed to the development of separate county organizations. Any county or group of contiguous counties has the right to secede from the Capital District Chapter by seeking and obtaining recognition of the LPNY in accordance with all rules for establishing new chapters or county organizations as set forth in the bylaws of the LPNY. (See Appendix I). In the event of secession, CDLP will decide how to divide the resources with only members in counties not seceding able to vote.

## Article III: Membership

Membership in the Libertarian Party of New York Capital District Chapter shall be open to any individual who resides within its geographic boundaries and

1. Is a member of the National Libertarian Party or the Libertarian Party of New York, or is enrolled as a Libertarian with the New York State Board of Elections:
2. Subscribes to the Principles and Objectives as set for in Article 1 of the LPNY, by signing or having signed an application to that effect, and
3. Pay \$15 dues.

Special membership status may be extended by the executive committee to individuals having long standing and continuing ties to the region.

A “member” as used in these By-Laws is a person who has satisfied the foregoing criteria.

## Article IV: Meeting and Conventions

- A. An annual Convention of the Chapter shall be held between April 1 and June 15 of each year to choose candidates for Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer) and Representative to the State Committee.
- B. Other Convention Business shall consist of amending the bylaws, and endorsing candidates.
- C. Each member of the Capital District Chapter in good standing as of the last day of February shall be entitled to one vote at such Chapter Convention. No voting by proxy will be permitted.
- D. Membership information regarding Board of Elections, the national LP and LPNY shall be obtained by the Secretary-Treasurer to determine eligibility according to these criteria.

## **Article V: Officers**

### **A. Titles**

The officers of the Chapter shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Representative to the State Committee.

### **B. Duties**

#### **1. Chair**

The Chair shall preside at all meeting and co-ordinate activities of the chapter and perform such other duties as normally associated with the office.

#### **2. Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair and assume such responsibilities as delegated by the chair or executive committee and assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence.

#### **3. Secretary**

The Secretary shall record and report on the official business of the meeting. The minutes of such official actions shall be presented at the annual convention, and at such other times as requested. The Secretary shall also be responsible for establishing procedures as appropriate in the circumstances for all voting matters pertaining to policy or candidates.

#### **4. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall keep an accurate and complete record of all financial transactions of chapter funds. The financial report shall be presented at the annual convention, and at such other times as requested.

The Convention may by a majority vote decide to combine the positions of Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **5. State Committee Representative**

The Representative of the State Committee shall attend the State Committee meetings and participate and/or monitor the discussions of the state committee and report back to the membership at the convention and monthly meetings.

#### **6. Executive Committee.**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the above named officers and the immediate past chair, and shall decide all issues except any expressly prohibited concerning the chapter between conventions.

### C. Nominations and Elections

Nominations for all offices shall take place at the annual convention. Nominations of all officers shall be from the floor. Election requires a majority of votes cast. If the votes are divided in such a way so as no candidate receives a majority, an additional ballot round of voting will be held. If no candidate receives a majority in this round of voting, successive rounds of voting will take place with the omission of the candidate who received the least amount of votes on the previous ballot until such time as someone receives a majority. All elections for officers shall be conducted with the choice of None of the Above recognized as a valid option and the votes cast for None of the Above shall be included in the total number of votes cast.

### D. Terms of Office

All elected officers shall serve for one year and until the close of the next annual Chapter Convention following their election.

E. All officers shall be members of good standing of the Chapter and the LPNY.

## Article VI: Vacancy and Succession

Vacancies in any of the chapter officer position shall be filled by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

## Article VII: Amendment Procedures

A. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be initiated by one of three methods:

1. Request by the State Committee for purposes of compliance with the New York State law or LPNY policy.
2. Majority request of members attending the last local convention.
3. Petition signed by at least 10% of the chapter membership, such petition must be delivered to the Secretary along with the written text of the proposed amendments(s).

If the amendment is of a housekeeping nature, it may be adopted by unanimous approval of the Executive Committee.

All other amendments to the by-laws will be presented for approval at the local convention and subject to a 2/3 vote.

## Article VIII: Quorums

- A. At all Local Conventions of the Chapter, a quorum shall consist of the greater of:
1. Twenty percent (20%) of the number of individuals registered for the Convention
  2. More than 50% of those delegates registered as being in attendance at the business session of the convention.
- B. All matters to be decided by the Executive Committee shall require the approval of the Executive Committee by the requisite number of members as if all members were present.

## Article IX: Endorsements of Candidate for Public Office

All endorsements for public office where the geographic boundaries for such office lie wholly within the counties shall be voted upon at the annual convention. A 2/3 majority of members casting votes shall be necessary for an endorsement. If more than 1 candidate is seeking endorsement, and no one has a 2/3 majority, a second ballot will be held. If after the second ballot, no one has the requisite 2/3 majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be removed and a new vote taken until such time as someone receives a majority. Should no candidate receive a 2/3 majority, no endorsement will be made for that office. None of the Above is recognized as a valid option and included in the total number of votes cast.

The Chapter shall support all national candidates endorsed by the Libertarian Party and all statewide candidates endorsed by the LPNY.

The Chapter shall not endorse any candidate, whose jurisdiction does not lie wholly or partly within the territory specified in Article II.

D.. Where the geographic boundaries of a public office other than statewide or New York City-wide cross into counties where there are more than one County Organization in existence, then endorsements shall be made by each and all affected County Organizations, each making such endorsement according to its own By-Laws and rules of order.

If the candidate's jurisdiction is not wholly within the territory specified in Article II, the chapter shall consult with the other organization involved.

Upon request by any member and without further discussion, voting will be done by secret ballot.

## Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) shall be the only parliamentary authority for the CDLP for all matters of procedures not specifically covered in these By-Laws.

## Article XI: Platforms

The chapter shall operate and advocate consistent with the National and State Platforms.

Any additional platform plank concerning issues shall be consistent with the national and state platforms and be considered at convention with approved by a two-third votes of those present and voting.

## Appendix I:

### LPNY bylaws – Article III: County Organizations

The State Committee shall charter County Organizations as provided for in this article.

#### A. Procedures for Chartering of County Organizations.

1. The State Committee shall charter any County Organization which meets all of the requirements stated in this article. No more than one County Organization may be chartered in any one county, but a County Organization of two or more contiguous counties, each of which has at least one LPNY member residing therein may be chartered. The State Committee may revoke the charter of any County Organization if and only if it fails to live up to its requirements under either the State By-Laws or its own County By-Laws.
2. Upon the request of any LPNY member residing in a county in which there is no chartered County Organization, the State Committee shall appoint some LPNY member residing in that county to take the position of Temporary County Chairperson. The purpose of such appointment is to secure a contact person around whom a county Organization may be formed. The State Committee may replace any Temporary Chairperson whom it does not deem to be performing his or her function satisfactorily.

## B. Requirements for Chartering of County Organizations

1. The geographical unit applying for a County Organization (whether a single county or a group of contiguous counties) must have held a Convention attended by at least seven (7) LPNY member residing therein, and a good faith attempt must have been made in advance to inform all LPNY members residing therein of the time and place of said Convention. No LPNY member residing in that geographical unit shall be denied the right to attend said Convention or join such County Organization should it be chartered except that each County Organization shall have the right to set dues as a requirement for membership.
2. A set of County By-laws must be adopted at said Convention, must cover the following matters:
  - a. Membership requirements (if any);
  - b. Provision for at least one annual Convention;
  - c. Procedures for selecting County officers and positions;
  - d. Procedures for amending the County By-Laws;
  - e. Procedures for endorsing candidates for public office;
  - f. Provision for division of treasury and other pooled resources (if there are any) in the event of a county's secession from a County Organization of more than one county to form a County Organization from a smaller included geographical unit.

## C. Residence

In the case of multiple residences, the person who resided in more than one place shall be the only person to decide which place or residence to claim for purposes of joining, voting in a Convention of, or otherwise associating with a County Organization, except that no person shall claim more than one place of residence in the same ninety (90) day period.

## D. Other Matters.

1. A County Organization may continue in existence as long as it observes all requirements herein stated and in addition consists of at least four (4) LPNY members.
2. Any county included within an existing County Organization may secede therefrom and establish its own county Organization, provided that ten (10) or more LPNY members reside in it and provided that its secession will not reduce the membership of the original Organization below any requirement for continued existence set by the State By-Laws. The procedure for obtaining a charter for the new Organization shall be the same as that for chartering any County Organization.

3. The chair of any County Organization must be a member of the LPNY.
4. Any decisions not forbidden to the county Organizations in the LPNY By-Laws shall be reserved to the County Organizations respectively, or to the individual LPNY members.