

## Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Clark County Washington

adopted November 12, 2009

### I. Identity and Purpose

A. The name of this organization is the Libertarian Party of Clark County LPCC, hereinafter referred to as "the Party," being a constituent part of the Libertarian Party of Washington State, hereinafter referred to as "the LPWA."

B. The Libertarian Party Statement of Principles affirms the philosophy upon which the Party is founded.

1. We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

C. The purpose of the Party is to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles, by:

1. Recruiting and endorsing candidates for public office in Clark County and Washington State.
2. Distributing political information, conducting educational activities.
3. Promoting other local Libertarian political and/or social organizations.

D. The controlling document of the Party shall be the Party Bylaws. Whenever possible, decisions for matters not contained in the Party Bylaws will be determined by the Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition. When more convenient, a committee at large may be formed to handle such matters.

### II. Organization

A. All powers of management and administration reside in the County Executive Committee. The County Executive Committee will consist of the officers of the Party, as defined in section III.

1. The County Executive Committee will convene at least quarterly. County Executive Meetings will be open to the public, however only current LPCC members may have voice or vote. Non-members may speak if recognized by the presiding officer.

2. The election of the county executive committee shall:

- a. Be on even numbered years in the 2nd quarter (April - June).
- b. Be chosen by using the Rank Choice voting method as defined in Appendix 1.

B. The County Central Committee shall be comprised of the Party's Precinct Committee Officers. They shall be elected as defined in current State law. Vacancies may be appointed by the County Executive committee.

1. Two members of the central committee shall act as co-directors and they shall preside at all central committee meetings.

- a. The two directors shall be chosen by vote of the general membership under the direction of the executive committee. The Rank choice voting method as defined in Appendix 1, shall be used to choose the two directors. The top 2 winners will be the directors.
- b. The election of the directors shall be on odd numbered years in the second quarter (April – June).

2. The County Central Committee shall have the power to:

a. Facilitate the amendment of the Party's Bylaws

b. Conduct the election of the county Executive Committee, or appoint interim leadership should there appear a vacancy, until the next regularly scheduled election.

3. The central committee will regularly convene two times per year. Additional meetings of the County Central Committee shall be at the call of the Executive committee or by petition of the two-thirds of the central committee. A minimum of thirty days written notice as to time and place shall be provided to the membership.

4. All meetings of the County Central Committee shall be open to the public, however only current LPCC members may have voice or vote. Non-members may speak if recognized by the presiding officer.

C. No party member may concurrently serve as a director of the county central committee and as an officer in the executive committee. Only official party members may serve as a director or an officer.

### III. Party Officers.

A. There will be four (4) Party officers, County Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer elected by the membership under the direction of the County Central Committee. The Party officers shall comprise the county executive committee.

1. Only current card carrying members of the national LP are eligible to serve as officers.

2. Should there appear a vacancy of Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, the county central committee directors shall appoint a temporary replacement, until the next regularly scheduled election.

3. Should the position of County Chair become vacant, the line of succession will follow the order listed in this section.

4. Officers will be elected individually, in the order designated in this article.

5. Terms of office will commence immediately upon adjournment of the County Central Committee organizational meeting and will last 2 years.

B. The duties of each officer will be as follows:

1. The County Chair will preside at all Party meetings, and act as Chief Executive of the Party. The Chair may appoint non-elected positions such as Office Manager, Database Manager, Archives Manager, Finance Chair, or other positions as the County Chair may see fit, subject to approval by at least two of the other executive committee officers.

2. The Vice Chair will preside at Party meetings in the absence of the County Chair. In addition the Vice Chair will be considered the Membership Chairman, maintaining the list of local members and communicating with them such as to the annual membership renewal.

3. The Secretary will record and maintain minutes of party meetings and will act as historian for the party. The Secretary shall preside at Party meetings if the Chair and Vice Chair are absent.

4. The Treasurer will maintain the Party's bank accounts, deposit all revenues, file all federal tax forms and pay all bills from the Party bank account. The Treasurer shall preside at Party meetings if the Chair, Vice Chair or Secretary are absent.

- a. All members of the executive committee shall have signature authority for all financial transactions and shall have access to all bank records.
- b. Two signatures shall be required for all withdrawals or payments from the party bank account.
- c. The treasurer shall present a Treasurer's Report to the executive committee at least once per calendar quarter for the previous quarter.
  - i. The report will contain the summary of all financial transactions.
  - ii. The treasurer's report shall be made available to the membership, upon written request.
  - iii. Additional reports shall be required by written request of any party officer or director of the central committee.
- C. All members of the executive committee shall have signature authority for Party documents.

#### IV. State Central Committee Members

- A. The County Central Committee organizational meeting will elect members of the State Central Committee as provided by State law.
- B. To assure full representation at meetings of the State Central Committee, the County Chair may appoint temporary State Central Committee members to vacant positions, for later approval by at least two of the other members of the County Executive Committee.

#### V. Membership

A. To be a member of the LPCC, one must:

- 1. Be a resident of Clark County Washington.
- 2. Affirm in writing to adhere to the core LP principles, and that they will oppose the initiation of force to achieve political, social or other goals.
- 3. Be able to read and understand the party's bylaws

B. Yearly dues shall be decided by the executive committee.

- 1. A minimum of thirty day written notice is required to change the required dues amount.
- 2. Any change must be approved by two-thirds vote of the membership at any county central committee meeting.
- 3. The yearly dues covers administration expenses incurred by The Party in maintaining a web site, printing and postage, public display expenses and any fees incurred by The Party in maintaining a bank account and proper tax filings.

C. Membership will run for one year beginning on the day of dues receipt and ending a year later on the last day of the same month.

D. Membership status may be revoked by the membership disciplinary council. Violations of the bylaws or damage to the party's reputation, effectiveness or status shall be considered just cause.

1. The four party officers and two directors of the central committee shall comprise the Membership disciplinary council.
2. Membership may be revoked, suspended or reinstated upon the decision of at least four of the six Membership disciplinary council members.
3. All membership status decisions shall be written and signed.
  - a. Decisions of the Membership disciplinary council may be nullified if at least two thirds of the county central committee members sign such a petition.
4. The membership status of the Membership disciplinary council members may be changed by the same method, but with the additional signature of the LPWA state chair.

E. All member/LPCC communication shall be primarily through email. It is the responsibility of each member to keep his or her email address accurate on the membership records.

#### VI. Endorsement of candidates for public office by the LPCC

A. Endorsement by the LPCC in races for public office will be by membership vote, and not by the decision of the County Executive or Central committee.

B. Only 1 legally recognized candidate per public office may be officially endorsed by the LPCC.

C. Endorsement of candidates by the LPCC shall be Rank Choice voting method, as defined in Appendix 1.

1. Online voting may be chosen by the executive committee and must follow the procedure outlined in Appendix 2. In addition, the programming code must be:

- a. Verified and approved by each member of the membership disciplinary council.
- b. Made available to the membership.

#### VII. Amendments

A. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any meeting of the county central committee.

B. The complete text of all proposed amendments must be sent to all members through email as part of the meeting notice as required by State law or these Bylaws, with minimum 30 days notice.

#### VIII. Property of LPCC

A. All materials acquired from party funds or donated to the party shall be the property of the party

B. All party property utilized by a party member for party business shall be returned to the party once that member no longer has the authority to use it.

C. If the LPCC should become inactive, all party property shall be transferred to the LPWA.

#### Appendix 1 – Rank Choice Voting Method or IRV (instant runoff voting)

Voters rank candidates in order of preference (i.e. first, second, third, fourth and so on). Voters have the option to rank as many or as few candidates as they wish. Choices are then tabulated, and if a candidate receives a majority (greater than fifty percent) of first choices, he or she is elected.

If no candidate has a clear majority of votes on the first count, a series of runoffs are simulated, using each voter's preferences indicated on the ballot. The candidate who received the fewest first place choices is eliminated. All ballots are then retabulated, with each ballot counting as one vote for each voter's highest ranked candidate who has not been eliminated. Specifically, voters who chose the now-eliminated candidate will now have their ballots counted for their second ranked candidate -- just as if they were voting in a traditional two-round runoff election -- but all other voters get to continue supporting their top candidate. The weakest candidates are successively eliminated and their voters' ballots are redistributed to next choices until a candidate crosses a majority of votes.

#### Appendix 2 – Method for online voting.

Online voting shall follow the steps in this order:

1. Members vote on the party website using their userID and password.
2. A confirmation email to the member shall be sent containing a random code specific to that member for that specific vote. An identical email shall be sent to the party secretary for verification purposes.
3. Results shall be posted on the internet showing the secret member code and the vote associated with it. This shall be called the unconfirmed vote.
4. Once the member receives the email with the code, he then verifies on the website that the vote was accurate using the code and member password. This shall be called the confirmed vote.
5. Confirmed votes shall be used to identify the winner(s).