



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGION LIBERTARIAN PARTY BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

The Central Oklahoma Region Libertarian Party (CenOKLP) is dedicated to serving the interests of individuals who have publicly affiliated themselves with libertarian philosophy and who embrace the following principles:

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

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.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely,

- (1) the right to life—accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others;*
- (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and*
- (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.*

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Article 1: NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 **Name:** The name of the organization is the Central Oklahoma Region Libertarian Party (hereinafter referred to as “CenOKLP”).
- 1.2 **Structure:** The CenOKLP is to be a political organization constituted by its members, governed by the business meeting at its annual Regional Convention, responsive to its state affiliate, the Oklahoma Libertarian Party (hereinafter referred to as the “OKLP”), and directed by its membership according to these Bylaws; with the express goal of working to place Libertarians into public office.
- 1.3 **Functions:** The CenOKLP is to arrange and hold its annual Regional Convention in any of the counties located within the purview of the CenOKLP (Canadian, Oklahoma, Lincoln, Grady, McClain, Pottawatomie, Seminole, and Cleveland) and report the results thereof; to support nominees of the OKLP and help elect those nominees to public office; to educate the Oklahoma voting public about the OKLP and its principles; and generally grow the Party in the CenOKLP region and throughout Oklahoma.
- 1.4 **Bona Fide Party:** The CenOKLP is a bona fide political party county affiliate under the laws of the state of Oklahoma, and as such is authorized to receive political contributions. The CenOKLP accepts political contributions in the name of CenOKLP or the Central Oklahoma Region Libertarian Party.
- 1.5 **Purpose:** The CenOKLP is committed to the principles stated in the Declaration of Independence and supports those principles as incorporated into the Constitution of the United States of America.
 - A. In accordance with these principles, the CenOKLP holds that we oppose the initiation of force to achieve political and social goals.
 - B. The commitment expressed in Section 1.5-A shall constitute a statement of principle to be verbally agreed upon and signed in affirmation by all members and officers of, and candidates endorsed by the CenOKLP.
- 1.6 **Address:** The mailing address of the CenOKLP shall be as designated by the membership.

Article 2: MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 **Eligibility:** A person is eligible to become a member of the CenOKLP if he or she:

- A. is a resident of one of the aforementioned counties in the region, and
- B. supports the CenOKLP's principles, as set forth in the Preamble of these Bylaws, and
- C. signs in affirmation of the following statement of principle: "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals," and
- D. is registered to vote as a Libertarian in the state of Oklahoma.
 - 1. This requirement may be waived by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the membership at the annual CenOKLP Regional Convention, or at any regular or special meeting of the membership.

2.2 **Rights of Membership**

- A. Members have voting rights at all meetings and at the annual CenOKLP Regional Convention.
- B. Members shall have the right to participate in official affairs and governance of the CenOKLP in accordance with these Bylaws. Such right shall be inviolate and the willful abridgment of such right by an officer or member of any committee shall be sufficient cause for removal of such officer or committee member.
- C. Members shall have the right to be members of standing committees and may be appointed and may serve as director of said committee at the discretion of the Chair.

Article 3: OFFICERS

- 3.1 **Eligibility:** To be eligible to become an officer of the CenOKLP, he or she must:
 - A. meet all membership requirements as defined in section 2.1 of these Bylaws, and
 - B. be a member in good standing of the OKLP, and
 - C. not be affiliated with any other political party.
- 3.2 The officers of the CenOKLP shall be Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and two At-Large Officers.
- 3.3 The four elected positions of the CenOKLP shall be elected at the annual Regional Convention by a majority vote of the membership.
 - A. No proxy voting is permitted.
- 3.4 Officers shall take office upon close of the Regional Convention and shall serve thereafter for a period of two (2) years, concluding

upon the adjournment of the second Regional Convention to which they were elected.

- A. Officers elected due to vacancy per Section 3.5 shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- B. Elections for Chair and Secretary shall be held in even-numbered years. Elections for the Treasurer and the At-Large Officer shall be held in odd-numbered years.
- C. Election of officers shall be conducted by secret ballot or by an approved, immutable, electronic voting device.
- D. A voice vote may be used if only one candidate has been nominated.
- E. In addition to the nominated candidates, members may write in a candidate or vote for “none of the above” (NOTA). If after the first round of voting no candidate has attained a majority, runoff votes will be held. The candidate with the lowest number of votes, and any candidate receiving less than 10% of all votes, shall be removed from the ballot for each subsequent round of voting. Voting continues in such a manner until one candidate receives a majority of votes. If NOTA receives the majority of votes in any officer election, none of the previously nominated candidates may be re-nominated for that office, and if no candidate meeting the requirements of the office is nominated, the office will remain empty until otherwise filled as specified here or elsewhere in these Bylaws.

3.5 Nominations and elections may be held at a regular or special meeting of the membership to replace an officer unwilling or unable to complete his or her term of office. The voting procedure used to elect officers at the annual Regional Convention as described by Section 3.4-E shall be followed.

3.6 No offices shall be combined.

Article 4: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

4.1 Duties of the Chair

- A. The Chair is the chief executive officer of the CenOKLP and shall coordinate the activities of the membership in achieving the objectives and goals of the CenOKLP.
- B. The Chair shall be responsible for the enforcement of these Bylaws and the carrying out of the directions and resolutions of the membership and the Regional Convention in accordance with these Bylaws.

- C. The Chair shall assist in all CenOKLP and OKLP activities, functions, and campaigns within the Central Region, unless these conflict fundamentally with the principles of the CenOKLP.
- D. The Chair shall serve as a member of all standing committees.
- E. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the membership and may, at his or her discretion, preside at Regional Conventions.
- F. The Chair shall be the primary CenOKLP spokesperson, but may delegate this function to any other member.
- G. The Chair shall ensure that all state and federal laws pertaining to political parties are complied with and make provision for legal services for the CenOKLP.
- H. The Chair shall oversee the development of new county organizations.
- I. The Chair shall serve as the CenOKLP representative on the OKLP Executive Committee, and shall fulfill all duties thereof, in accordance with the OKLP Bylaws.

4.2 Duties of the Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the CenOKLP and shall disburse the same in accordance with decisions to spend such funds by the membership or otherwise, as set forth by these Bylaws.
- B. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, and internal and external reporting.
- C. The Treasurer shall make a report of income, expenditures, and ending balance of all accounts and the results of such activities to all regular CenOKLP meetings and conventions.
- D. Upon written request of any CenOKLP member, the Treasurer shall, within five (5) business days, produce an itemized statement of all income, expenditures, and ending balance of all accounts.
- E. The Treasurer shall make any and all financial reports required by the Oklahoma Ethics Commission through the Guardian Reporting System and/or other reports required by state law.
- F. The Treasurer shall perform other duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer or as directed by the Chair.

4.3 **Duties of the Secretary**

- A. The duties of the Secretary are to keep and maintain accurate minutes and records of all meetings and conventions.
- B. The Secretary shall maintain other records including mailing lists and a roster of CenOKLP members.
- C. The Secretary shall perform other assorted duties pertaining to the office of Secretary.
- D. The Secretary shall be the chief assistant to the Chair, and shall perform such duties as the Chair shall prescribe, and hold such executive powers as the Chair shall delegate.
- E. The Secretary shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event that the Chair is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.
- F. The Secretary will serve as liaison and coordinator for all standing committees of the CenOKLP.
- G. Prior to any election, the Secretary shall notify the membership of any members who may be subject to censure and the grounds therefore.

4.4 **Duties of the At-Large Officer**

- A. The duties of the At-Large Officer are to help with organizing outreach, recruitment, and committee activities across all counties within the Central Region.
- B. At each regular meeting and convention the At-Large Officer shall present to the membership a report detailing the results of any finished projects, the progress of those under way, and the planning of future endeavors in furtherance of the goals of the CenOKLP.

4.5 If any officer is absent for two successive meetings, at the call of the second meeting, the position shall be declared vacant. A vacancy in any office may be filled by the membership pursuant to these Bylaws.

Article 5: MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

5.1 All annual Regional Conventions, regular meetings, and special meetings of the CenOKLP are to be open to the public.

5.2 **Annual Regional Conventions**

- A. The CenOKLP shall meet every year in a Regional Convention held during the months of February, March, or April. Officers and members of any committees shall be elected at this time in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 3.4-B of these Bylaws. Amendments to the Platform and Bylaws of the CenOKLP may be considered at the annual Regional Convention or at a special meeting. The membership may at any time, in the interests of the CenOKLP, direct the Secretary, or if that person is not available or if said office is vacant, the Treasurer, to issue a call for a special meeting and shall fix the time and place thereof. The procedure for calling annual Regional Conventions shall apply to the calling of special meetings so far as applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws.
- B. All members will be given timely notice of the date and location of the annual Regional Convention in a manner and time as determined by the Chair.
- C. The Chair or the Chair's designee shall call the Convention to order. The Secretary or the Treasurer will immediately be asked for a report on the attendance at the time the Convention was called to order.
- D. A quorum for the Convention shall consist of a number of members equal to 50% of the number of current members who are listed on the Treasurer's membership roll and in attendance at the time of the call to order. As individuals are free to come and go during the Convention, a quorum may be represented by different individuals throughout the Convention.
- E. No decisions at the Regional Convention requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present.

5.3 **Regular Meetings**

- A. The CenOKLP shall hold regularly scheduled meetings of the membership and shall be open to the public. Public notice shall be given at least 14 days prior to the meeting.
- B. A quorum for all regular meetings of the CenOKLP shall consist of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the officers.
- C. No decisions requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present as defined in section 5.3-B.
- D. Proxy voting is not permitted.
- E. Any persons engaging in inappropriate conduct at a meeting may be asked to discontinue such conduct or leave.

5.4 **Special Meetings**

- A. The Chair or any other two officers may call a special meeting to conduct non-routine business such as removal of a member for cause, for the purposes of electing a member to fill a vacancy, or for the officers to receive direction from the membership.
- B. At a special meeting, any CenOKLP member as of seven days prior to the special meeting is eligible to vote, and a quorum to conduct business shall be ten members. The special meeting shall have full authority of the CenOKLP to act except where there is a conflict with state or federal election laws.
- C. Special meetings may be called to propose amendments to the Bylaws as outlined in Section 7.2-A.
- D. No decisions at the special meeting requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present.

5.5 **Online Meetings**

- A. If no CenOKLP member objects, a regular or special meeting may be held via electronic media, wherein votes may be taken and business transacted just as in an in-person, public meeting.

- 5.6 The rules contained in the current edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised,” shall govern parliamentary procedure in all conventions, meetings, and committees in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not in conflict with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the CenOKLP may adopt.

Article 6: EXPENDITURES

- 6.1 No expenditures of funds of the CenOKLP shall be made without the approval of the Chair or Treasurer.
- 6.2 Officers must faithfully preserve a reserve account for Ethics compliance and maintenance of the CenOKLP.
- 6.3 No expenditures of funds in excess of \$150 shall be made without the approval of a majority of the officers.

Article 7: BYLAWS

- 7.1 These Bylaws shall take effect immediately if accepted by majority vote of the organizing members of the CenOKLP present at the Founding Convention to be held July 25th, 2020.
- 7.2 These Bylaws may be amended at any Regional Convention or special meeting by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The members may

modify or add to the proposed amendments by a simple majority vote. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote is required to adopt any amendments and permanently change these rules and Bylaws, except as otherwise noted in Section 7.3.

- A. To be placed on the agenda of an annual Regional Convention or any special meeting, all amendments proposed by a member must be communicated to an officer via electronic means and/or by mail and/or by any other means, being received at least five (5) days prior to the Convention or meeting.

7.3 The Statement of Principles as found in the Preamble, and this section of Article 7, shall only be revised or repealed upon seven-eighths ($\frac{7}{8}$) consent of all members assembled in convention unless otherwise superseded by Libertarian Party Bylaws or OKLP Bylaws, in which case, these Bylaws may be amended to reflect the higher standard.

7.4 The procedure for proposing amendments shall be as follows:

- A. The CenOKLP officers, upon a unanimous vote in favor of proposing an amendment, may call a special meeting for the purpose of amending the Bylaws.

- 1. The special meeting for the purposes of amending the Bylaws shall follow the procedures as outlined in Section 5.4.

- B. Proposed amendments offered by the members not taken into consideration in a special meeting shall be held for consideration at the next scheduled annual Regional Convention.

- 1. Approval shall be made in accordance with Section 7.2.

7.5 Approved amendments to these Bylaws shall be added to the official published record of same upon adjournment of the convention or meeting.

Article 8: POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH OKLAHOMA ELECTION LAWS

8.1 In the event that these rules and Bylaws conflict in any material respect with a provision of the election laws of the State of Oklahoma, OKLP Bylaws, or the CenOKLP Platform, the inconsistent rule or bylaw shall yield to the extent necessary to resolve the conflict.

Article 9: REGIONAL AFFILIATION CHARTER

- 9.1 Whereas the Central Oklahoma Regional Libertarian Party, which purports to represent the Party, must obtain a Charter from the State Committee, which shall be issued only by majority vote of the entire Committee. Such Charter shall be valid thereafter until amended by majority vote of the State Committee, revoked by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the entire Committee, or three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote of a State Convention; except that both the initial granting and/or subsequent revocation of a Charter shall be subject to approval by a majority vote of the State Convention.
- 9.2 Upon ratification of these Bylaws by the organizing members of the CenOKLP present at the founding convention, they shall have thirty (30) days to submit a Chartering Resolution to the State Executive Committee for approval.
- A. Upon approval of the Charter, the CenOKLP shall allow the OKLP Chair and the OKLP Treasurer access to CenOKLP records upon reasonable notice.