



OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

The Oklahoma County Libertarian Party (OCLP) is dedicated to serving the interests of individuals who have publicly affiliated themselves with the 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.

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

- 1.1. Name:** The name of the organization is the Oklahoma County Libertarian Party (hereinafter referred to as “OCLP” or “the Party”).
- 1.2. Structure:** The OCLP is to be a political organization constituted by its members, governed by the Annual Business Meeting at its County Convention, responsive to its affiliated District Organizations, and directed by its Governing Body according to these bylaws; with the express goal of working to place Libertarians into public office.
- 1.3. Functions:** The OCLP is to arrange and hold precinct and county conventions in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma and, when appropriate, district conventions and report the results thereof; to support nominees of the Oklahoma Libertarian Party (hereinafter referred to as 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 Oklahoma County and nearby counties and throughout Oklahoma.

- 1.4. Bona Fide Party:** The OCLP 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 OCLP accepts political contributions in the name of the OCLP or the Oklahoma County Libertarian Party.
- 1.5. Purpose:** The OCLP 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.
- 1.5.1.** The OCLP holds 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, limited only by the obligation to recognize the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.
- 1.5.2.** Section 1.5.1 above shall constitute a statement of commitment to be verbally agreed upon and signed in affirmation by all members, officers of, and candidates endorsed by the OCLP as per Section 12 of these Bylaws.
- 1.6. Address:** The mailing address of the OKLP shall be as designated by the Governing Body.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1. Membership:** Membership shall consist of Enrolled Members and Governing Body Members.

2.1.1. OCLP Enrollee Membership

- 2.1.1.1.** A person is eligible to become an Enrolled Member (or "Voting Member") of OCLP if he or she:

- 2.1.1.1.1.** is a resident of Oklahoma County,
- 2.1.1.1.2.** supports the OCLP's Statement of Principles,
- 2.1.1.1.3.** Paid dues to the OCLP in accordance with the requirements established in Section 2.2 of the bylaws.

- 2.1.1.2.** A person's Voting Membership terminates if he or she:

- 2.1.1.2.1.** ceases to be eligible as defined by 2.1.1.1 above

2.1.2. OCLP Governing Body:

- 2.1.2.1.** Members of the Governing Body of the OCLP shall reside in Oklahoma County and meet all of the following requirements:

- 2.1.2.1.1.** Meets all the requirements of an Enrolled Member as defined by 2.1.1
- 2.1.2.1.2.** is a qualified Oklahoma voter
- 2.1.2.1.3.** registered as a Libertarian to vote in Oklahoma County,
- 2.1.2.1.4.** Member of the Oklahoma Libertarian Party
- 2.1.2.1.5.** is not affiliated with any other political party, and
- 2.1.2.1.6.** Paid dues to the OCLP in accordance with the requirements established in Section 2.2 of the bylaws.

2.2. Dues

- 2.2.1.** Membership dues are paid on a voluntary basis to the Treasurer of the OCLP and shall be in the amount of \$25.
- 2.2.2.** Membership of the OKLP shall be recognized as membership in the OCLP, provided members meet the requirements of 2.1.1

2.3. Rights of Membership

2.3.1. Enrolled Members of the OCLP:

- 2.3.1.1.** Shall have voting privileges at any convention.
- 2.3.1.2.** Shall be entitled to join the Governing Body by written notice to the Treasurer and by paying the associated additional dues, provided he/she qualifies as per Section 2.1.2.
- 2.3.1.3.** Enrolled Members shall have the right to participate in official affairs and governance of the OCLP 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.
 - 2.3.1.3.1.** Enrolled Members shall have the right to be members of Standing Committees and may be appointed and serve as Director of said committee at the discretion of the Chair.

2.3.2. Governing Body members:

- 2.3.2.1.** Have voting rights at all meetings of the Governing Body and at the annual convention.
- 2.3.2.2.** Are eligible to serve as officers of the OCLP.

3. OFFICERS

- 3.1.** The officers of the OCLP shall be the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) District Coordinators or At-Large Members to represent the three County Road Districts (CRD).
 - 3.1.1.** The Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer may serve simultaneously as the Representative to the Regional Affiliate.
- 3.2.** All officers of the OCLP must be members of the Governing Body as specified in Section 2.1.2 of these bylaws.
- 3.3.** The six elected positions of the OCLP shall be elected at the annual County Convention by a majority vote of the duly credentialed qualified delegates to the County Convention; provided, however, that the Governing Body has the right and authority to fill any vacant position, pursuant to these bylaws.

- 4.1.7. The Chairperson shall insure that all state and federal laws pertaining to political parties are complied with and make provision for legal services for the Party.
 - 4.1.8. The Chairperson shall oversee the development of new district or precinct organizations.
 - 4.1.9. The Chairperson shall assign the duties of the Secretary and/or the Treasurer to an officer of the OCLP, in absence of that Officer, until a successor is chosen by the OCLP Governing Body as defined in section 3.3.
- 4.2. Duties of the Treasurer:**
- 4.2.1. The Treasurer shall be custodian of all funds of the Governing Body and the Party and shall disburse the same in accordance with decisions to spend such funds by the Governing Body or otherwise set forth by these Bylaws.
 - 4.2.2. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, internal and external reporting.
 - 4.2.3. The Treasurer shall,
 - 4.2.4. from time to time, report to the Governing Body and the County Convention both the financial situation of the Party and the results of its activities.
 - 4.2.5. 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.
 - 4.2.6. perform other duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer or as directed by the Chairperson.
- 4.3. Duties of the Secretary:**
- 4.3.1. The duties of the Secretary are to keep and maintain accurate minutes and records of all meetings and conventions.
 - 4.3.2. Must maintain other records including mailing lists and a roster of OCLP Voting Members.
 - 4.3.3. Perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of secretary.
 - 4.3.4. The Secretary shall be the chief assistant to the Chair, and
 - 4.3.5. Performing such duties as the Chair shall prescribe, and holding such executive powers as the Chair shall delegate.
 - 4.3.6. 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.
 - 4.3.7. The Secretary will serve as liaison and coordinator for all standing committees; and
 - 4.3.8. 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 District Coordinator**
- 4.4.1. Each District Coordinator shall represent their respective County Road District (CRD).
 - 4.4.2. District Coordinators need not be residents of their respective CRD, but is encouraged.
 - 4.4.3. Each Coordinator is responsible for organizing Outreach, Recruitment, and GOTV activities within their respective districts at the precinct level.
 - 4.4.4. At each regular meeting the Coordinators will present a report of those activities to assist in the planning and implementation of County goals.

- 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 Governing Body pursuant to these Bylaws.

5. MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

- 5.1. All regularly scheduled meetings, annual conventions, and special conventions of the OCLP are to be open to the public.

5.2. Annual County Conventions

- 5.2.1. The Party shall meet every year in a County Convention held during the months of February, March, or April. The County Convention shall be scheduled to comply with Oklahoma Libertarian Party deadlines for the election of delegates for the State Convention, or any other Oklahoma Libertarian Party or Central Oklahoma Libertarian Party requirements. Officers and members of the Governing Body shall be elected at this time in accordance with the requirements set forth in Section 3.4.2 of these Bylaws. Amendments to the Platform and Bylaws of the Party may be considered at any convention. The Governing Body at any time in the interests of the Party, may direct the Secretary, or if that person be not available or if said office is vacant, the Treasurer, to issue a Call for special meetings or Conventions and shall fix the times and places thereof. The procedure for calling regular County Conventions shall apply to the calling of special meetings and conventions so far as applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

- 5.2.1.1. All members will be given timely notice of the date and location of the OCLP Annual Convention in a manner and time as determined by the Chair

- 5.2.1.2. The Chair or the Chair's designee shall call the annual 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.

- 5.2.1.2.1. A quorum for the annual convention shall consist of a number of members equal to 50% of the number of current Voting 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 a convention, a quorum may be represented by different individuals throughout the convention.

- 5.2.1.3. No decisions at the Annual Convention requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present.

5.3. Governing Body meetings:

- 5.3.1. The OCLP shall hold regularly scheduled meetings of the Governing Body and shall be open to the public. Public notice shall be given on the official Oklahoma County Libertarian Party website 14 days prior to the meeting; in addition, other notices may be used.

- 5.3.2. A quorum for all regular and special meetings of the OCLP Governing Body shall consist of the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, and 50% of the elected Governing Body.

- 5.3.3. No decisions requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present as defined in section 5.3.2.

- 5.3.4. Proxy voting is not permitted.

- 5.3.5.** If no Governing Body member objects, the Chair may call a special meeting of the Governing Body via electronic media in which votes may be taken and business transacted just as in an in-person, public meeting.
- 5.3.6.** Any persons engaging in inappropriate conduct at a meeting may be asked to discontinue such conduct or leave.
- 5.4. Special Conventions and Non-Routine Meetings**

 - 5.4.1.** The Chair or any other two members of the Governing Body may call a special meeting, also called a “Special Convention,” 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 Governing Body to receive direction from the Enrolled Membership.
 - 5.4.2.** At a Special Convention, any OCLP Voting Member as of seven days prior to the Special Convention is eligible to vote, and a quorum to conduct business shall be ten Voting Members in good standing. The Special Convention shall have full authority of the OCLP to act except where there is a conflict with Oklahoma state or federal election laws
 - 5.4.3.** Special Conventions may be called to propose amendments to the Bylaws as outlined in Section 8.2.1.
 - 5.4.4.** No decisions at the Special Convention requiring a vote shall be made without a quorum present.
- 5.5.** The Rules contained in the current edition of ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, shall govern parliamentary procedure in all conventions, caucuses, meetings, and convention committees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with these Bylaws and any special rules or order the Party may adopt.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- 6.1.** The OCLP shall consist of 7 Standing Committees in order to facilitate day-to-day operations of the Party and to provide guidance in achieving the goals as set forth in the Mission Statement.
- 6.2.** The Chairperson of the Governing Body shall appoint officers to the Standing Committees in accordance with Section 3.7 of these Bylaws.

7. EXPENDITURES

- 7.1.** No expenditures of funds of the OCLP shall be made without the approval of the Chairperson or Treasurer.
- 7.2.** Officers must faithfully preserve a reserve account for Ethics compliance and party maintenance.
- 7.3.** No expenditures of funds in excess of \$200 of the OCLP shall be made without the approval of a majority of the Governing Body.
- 7.4.** The Treasurer shall make a report of income, expenditures and ending balance of all accounts at each Governing Body meeting.
- 7.5.** Upon written request of any Governing Body member, the Treasurer shall, within two (2) business days, produce an itemized statement of all income, expenditures and ending balance of all accounts.

8. BYLAWS

- 8.1.** These Bylaws shall take effect immediately if accepted by majority vote of the organizing members of the OCLP present at the founding convention to be held April 21, 2018, and all founding members shall have thirty (30) days to pay dues.

- 8.2.** These Bylaws may be amended at any County Convention or Special Convention by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of all eligible Enrolled and Governing Body Members. The Voting Members may modify or add to the proposed amendments by a simple majority vote. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt any amendments and permanently change these rules and bylaws. Except as otherwise noted in Section 8.3.
- 8.2.1.** To be placed on the agenda of an annual County Convention or any Special Convention all proposed amendments must be communicated to the General Membership via electronic means and/or by mail and/or by any other means approved by the Chairman within 14 days of the annual convention of the OCLP.
- 8.3.** The Statement of Principles as found in the Preamble shall only be revised or repealed upon $\frac{2}{3}$ consent of all Enrolled and Governing Body Members assembled in Convention unless otherwise superseded by LNC Bylaws or OKLP State Bylaws, in which case, these bylaws may be amended to reflect the higher standard.
- 8.4.** The procedure for proposing amendments shall be as follows:
- 8.4.1.** The Governing Body, upon a supermajority vote (60%) in favor of proposing an amendment, may call a Special Convention for the purpose of amending the Bylaws.
- 8.4.1.1.** The Special Convention for the purposes of amending the Bylaws shall follow the procedures as outlined in Section 5.4.
- 8.4.2.** Proposed amendments offered by the Governing Body not taken into consideration in a Special Convention shall be held for consideration by the Bylaws Committee at the next scheduled regular County Convention.
- 8.4.2.1.** Upon the vote of a majority of the Bylaws Committee, the proposed amendment shall go to a vote of the delegation of Voting Members.
- 8.4.2.2.** Approval shall be made in accordance with Section 8.2.
- 8.5.** Engrossment of approved amendments in these Bylaws shall take effect upon adjournment of the Convention.

9. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

- 9.1.** An individual is an Enrolled Member in good standing if the individual meets the requirements of section 2.1 and 2.2.2 as of the date of inquiry.
- 9.2.** An individual is a member of the Governing Body in Good Standing if the individual meets the requirements of section 2.1 and 2.2.2 as of the date of inquiry.

10. POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH OKLAHOMA ELECTION LAWS

- 10.1.** 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 Party Platform, the inconsistent rule or bylaw shall yield to the extent necessary to resolve the conflict.

11. COUNTY AFFILIATION CHARTER

- 11.1.** Whereas the Oklahoma County 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.

- 11.1.1. Upon ratification of these Bylaws by the organizing members of the OCLP present at the founding convention, the Governing Body shall have thirty (30) days to submit a Chartering Resolution to the State Executive Committee for approval.
- 11.1.2. Upon approval of the Charter, the Governing Body of the OCLP shall allow the State Party Chairperson and the State Treasurer, access to OCLP records upon reasonable notice.

12. AFFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLE

- 12.1. Enrolled members of the Party must sign in affirmation of the following statement: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. I further maintain 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, limited only by the obligation to recognize the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose."