

# CONSTITUTION

## Libertarian Party of Bay County

### **Article 1: Organization and Purpose**

#### **Section 1: Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Libertarian Party of Bay County, hereinafter referred to as the Affiliate.

#### **Section 2: Objects and Purpose**

The object and purpose of the Affiliate is to engage in political action to advance the cause of individual liberty and minimum government in Bay County, Florida, and to serve as the affiliate organization to the Libertarian Party of Florida in Bay County, to assist and support political efforts from the Libertarian Party of Florida, hereinafter referred to as the LPF.

#### **Section 3: Statement of Principles**

The Affiliate adopts the Libertarian Party Statement of Principles as approved in 1974 as the philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail.

#### **Section 4: Adoption of LPF Governance**

The Affiliate adopts the constitution and bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Florida (LPF). All provisions within this Constitution and its subordinate documents that conflict with the LPF Constitution and Bylaws shall be severed and deemed unenforceable to the minimum extent needed to eliminate the conflict.

#### **Section 5: Adoption of Robert's Rules**

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR) 12th Edition shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by this Constitution or Affiliate Bylaws.

### **Article 2: Membership**

#### **Section 1: Membership Requirements**

Membership shall be open to any individual that resides in Bay County, or a neighboring county (Washington County, FL; Calhoun County, FL; Gulf County, FL) as long as that county does not have an established affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Florida, signs the pledge: "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals" and who is not a member or registered voter of any other political party. Any member of the LPF residing in Bay County shall meet this requirement. Any change in status that renders a member ineligible under this section shall immediately terminate membership. Re-affirmation of this pledge and request for membership shall be required to reinstate a terminated membership.

#### **Section 2: Prohibition on Membership Dues**

Members of the Affiliate shall have the right to fully and meaningfully participate in Affiliate business without any monetary encumbrance such as membership dues.

### **Section 3: Resignation of Membership**

Any member may voluntarily choose to resign membership in the Affiliate with a signed written statement delivered to the Affiliate Secretary or presented at an Affiliate business meeting. No member may be expelled or otherwise have membership terminated except as prescribed in this constitution.

### **Section 4: Member Rights**

Members shall have the right to attend the Annual Business Meeting, to attend all business meetings not otherwise in executive session, to vote on all at-large elected positions and all elected positions in whose district or precinct they reside, and to vote on amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Additional member rights may be prescribed in the Bylaws.

## **Article 3: Officers and Executive Committee**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer seats may be combined and all seats must be filled. Officers shall be elected at-large.

### **Section 2: Executive Committee**

*[Explanation: the executive committee is the primary decision making board in between the annual business meetings. The four officers must be on the executive committee plus all elected Libertarian partisan legislators residing in the county per FS 103.091(6)a. The county constitution may define additional executive committee positions such as precinct captains, directors at-large, or regional representatives. Any such positions should have their districts and duties clearly spelled out. We give an example here of a single Director At-Large plus the positions mandated by statute. Larger affiliates may also prescribe Deputy Secretary and/or Treasurer positions or of EC member alternates if warranted.]*

### **Example:**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, one (1) elected Director At-Large who represents all libertarians within Bay County, and current members of the Florida Legislature who are residents of the county and members of the LPF.

### **Section 3: Elections**

Executive Committee members shall be elected for a term of one (1) year by a majority of votes cast by members present at the Annual Business meeting in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Affiliate Bylaws. Members shall always have the right to vote for "None of the Above" in any election. If "None of the Above" receives a majority of votes cast, no individual nominated for that election shall be eligible to serve in the position for the remainder of its term.

### **Section 4: Executive Committee Requirements**

All members of the Executive Committee must maintain Affiliate membership and additionally must be LPF members and registered LPF voters to hold office. Any change in status that makes

a current Executive Committee member ineligible to hold office shall result in that member's office being vacated.

#### **Section 5: Duties of Chair**

The Chair shall preside over business meetings and serve as a public spokesperson for the Affiliate.

#### **Section 6: Duties of Vice-Chair**

The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in conjunction with, or in the absence of, the Chair and serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair.

#### **Section 7: Duties of Secretary**

The Secretary shall keep records including, but not limited to: minutes of meetings, records of membership, and official correspondence. The Secretary shall work to ensure members are informed of meetings and events. The Secretary shall serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

#### **Section 8: Duties of Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer and shall receive, hold, disburse, and account for all funds under the direction of the Executive Committee as prescribed in the Affiliate Bylaws. The Treasurer shall file all required accounting reports on time as required by state law. The Treasurer shall serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the Secretary.

#### **Section 9: Resignation of Executive Committee Members**

Any Executive Committee member may resign their position with a signed written statement delivered to the Affiliate Secretary or presented at an Affiliate business meeting. Executive Committee members shall also be considered to have resigned in the event of death or of three consecutive unexcused absences from Executive Committee meetings.

#### **Section 10: Recall of Executive Committee Members**

Members of the Affiliate may recall any Executive Committee member at an Affiliate business meeting with a two-thirds majority vote of all members present if and only if the intent and cause for recall is provided with advance public notice as prescribed in the Bylaws.

#### **Section 11: Filling Executive Committee Vacancies**

Vacant Executive Committee positions shall be filled by election at the next Affiliate business meeting using the same process and requirements as the regular election for the position. If no presiding officer is present, the members shall elect a chair *pro-tempore* to preside over the elections. Executive Committee members elected to fill a vacancy shall take office immediately upon election and serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

### **Article 4: Committees**

#### **Section 1: Standing Committees**

Permanent standing committees may be defined in the Bylaws, to include the committee's name, membership composition and qualifications, term of service, duties, powers, and any other policies and procedures prescribing the actions of the committee.

## **Section 2: Special Committees**

The Executive Committee may create special committees in accordance with the adopted parliamentary authority. Any such special committees shall operate for the duration specified by the Executive Committee or until the conclusion of the next regular Annual Business Meeting, whichever is sooner. Special committees shall dissolve upon presenting their final report to the Executive Committee.

## **Article 5: Meetings and Procedures**

### **Section 1: Annual Business Meeting**

The Affiliate shall hold an Annual Business Meeting with advance public notice as prescribed in the Bylaws.

### **Section 2: Regular Business Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall call regular business meetings at least quarterly with advance public notice as prescribed in the Bylaws.

### **Section 3: Special Business Meetings**

The Executive Committee may call special business meetings for a specific stated purpose with public notice as prescribed in the Bylaws.

### **Section 4: Candidate Support**

The Executive Committee shall make party nominations when required by law and conduct campaigns for party nominees as prescribed in the Bylaws.

## **Article 6: Adoption and Amendments**

### **Section 1: Adoption**

This Constitution and associated Bylaws shall be originally adopted by a three-fourths vote of LPF members present at the organizational meeting.

### **Section 2: Amendments**

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by a three-fourths vote of the all Affiliate members present at the Annual Business meeting with advance public notice as prescribed in the Bylaws.

### **Section 3: Subordination**

This Constitution is subordinate to applicable state law, county ordinance, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Florida. The Affiliate Bylaws shall be subordinate to this Constitution. Any other Affiliate governing documents shall be subordinate to the affiliate Bylaws and the adopted parliamentary authority.

### **Section 4: Standing Rules**

The Executive Committee may create additional standing rules or other written governing documents that are wholly subordinate to and may not conflict with this Constitution, the Affiliate Bylaws, or the adopted parliamentary authority.

**Adopted this day, January 26, 2023, by vote of the membership**