



**LPTexas
2022 State Convention
Rules Committee**

Bylaws Report

2022 LPTexas Bylaws Report

Fellow Delegates:

The Rules Committee presents the following proposals for consideration. We hope that each delegate will carefully evaluate each one.

Most of these rule recommendations are based on issues encountered by LPTexas throughout the last two years. All delegates may not agree on the best path forward, but we believe these items to be the most worthy of consideration. Bylaws have to be dealt with not just every two years at conventions but every day by the party leadership at all levels. Changes can have a significant impact on how the party operates and can either enable or hinder operations. These experiences shape the recommendations before you and have been given careful consideration. A poorly written yet well-intended rule can cause as much hardship on maintaining the party as a bad rule.

Our bylaws are crucial in governing how the party functions, but please keep in mind that the bylaws are only as good as the people that follow them. This is important for each affiliate, CEC, and SLEC member. No rule can be written that can make people follow them. Amending these bylaws is essential but selecting excellent and committed representatives of the party is even more vital. Writing clear and well-intentioned bylaws is necessary to enable our party representatives to do their job, making the party a success.

Even under ideal conditions we only get about 4 hours every 2 years to vote on such changes. We hope the convention body will consider each recommendation up or down so we can get through the list and conduct our business as efficiently as possible.

We hope you will take all these considerations into account when evaluating the merit of each change. Thank you for taking the time to be a member of this party and a delegate to this convention. We are proud to have worked together in our common goal to grow the LP, the only party fighting for all of your freedoms all of the time.

There are two bundles of motions that will be considered as a group, if the bundles fail, the individual proposals in the bundle will still be considered.

Non-controversial (NC) Bundle: *We did a special vote on all items. All members of the committee had a “black ball” veto to keep any item out of this bundle for any reason unquestioned if they believed it should not be in the bundle. We believe these items are highly likely to be not controversial and would simplify the process and save time by bundling them together as one.*

Terminology Bundle: *These 4 proposals are all related to updating terms we use in the document. We believe that they are heavily related to the new definitions section. While 3 of the proposals may pass without the definitions section we believe it best if the definition section passes with them to avoid confusion. These proposals are strongly bound to each other because of reliance on the new definitions.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

The Rules Committee:

John Wilford (Chair), Donavan Pantke, Teresa Rushing,
Andrew Amelang, Paul Darr, Arthur Thomas, & Mike Dooling

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1. Noncontroversial Bundle

These proposals are grouped together as a single proposal:

- 8. Voting Membership Eligibility
- 11. Assign District Chairs to Handle District Matters
- 14. Clarifying Filling Vacancies
- 15. Rearranging Removal and Filling of Vacancies
- 16. Lifetime Memberships
- 17. National Delegate Eligibility
- 18. Superiority
- 22. Clarify Affiliation
- 25. District Caucus Minutes
- 27. County Governing Authority
- 28. Multi Seat Balloting Adjustment
- 30. Platform Changes
- 32. Delegate Apportionment Fixes
- 33. Moving Scope of Balloting
- 36. Adding Sunlight to Sunsetting
- 37. Full Bylaws Language Fixes
- 38. Removing Confusing Staff Wording
- 39. Spending Authority (SLEC bylaws)
- 40. Order of Business
- 41. Moving Committees to be under State Convention
- 43. Convention Locations
- 44. Grammar and Numbering Fixes
- 48. Bylaws Committee Title Change
- 52. Purposes
- 53. Removal of District Language for County Convention
- 54. Minor Wording Fix
- 57. National Delegate Language Fixes
- 61. Alphabetical Roll Call Requirement

Committee Reasoning

All committee members were given Veto power to reject any items, without question, from the bundle for any reason they want. The items made into the bundle are considered non-controversial enough that we believe they could pass together as a single proposal to allow us to go onto items one by one that may need more discussion.

2. Inactive Counties Process for Disaffiliation

III.b.5. County Disaffiliation.

No motion to disaffiliate shall be brought within 90 days of the date of the precinct conventions.

The state Party may disaffiliate a county using the following process:

- i. A SLEC member moving to disaffiliate a county shall notify the members of the SLEC in writing no less than thirty (30) days before such a vote is to occur.
- ii. The State Secretary shall notify the County Chair of the county to be disaffiliated at least twenty (20) days prior to such a vote.
- iii. A representative of the county to be disaffiliated may be chosen by the CEC of that county and shall be granted speaking privileges during consideration of the motion to disaffiliate.
- iv. At least three-fourths (3/4) of the entire body of the SLEC must vote in the affirmative to disaffiliate the county.
- v. From the date of the SLEC vote, a Voting Member registered to vote in the county to be disaffiliated has ten (10) days to initiate an appeal. If an appeal is not initiated in the time given, the disaffiliation becomes effective immediately. An appeal shall be resolved by the following:
 - A. The Secretary shall send out an email appeal notice to the county chairs of all affiliated counties once an appeal has been initiated.
 - B. County affiliates may vote to reverse the decision of the SLEC by majority vote of the CEC of each affiliated county.
 - C. Each county that was affiliated when the appeal notice was given shall be allowed to vote.
 - D. Each county shall submit a record of its vote with how each CEC member voted to the Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of the Secretary's email appeal notice to all affiliated counties.
 - E. Each voting county shall be allocated the same number of votes as delegates allocated in the most recent state convention, or the minimum allocation in the case the county was not affiliated as of the last state convention.
 - F. A majority of all possible votes is required to reverse the decision of the SLEC.

Committee Reasoning

Each 2 year cycle the state party encounters county affiliates which become completely unresponsive. This puts the state party in an often difficult situation of waiting for a failed convention to establish a new temporary chair for that county to establish it as an official county affiliate of LPTexas. This would give a clear mechanism for how to deal with this situation in a more timely and reasonable manner.

Libertarians understand that the right of association also works both ways. Counties may separate at will from the state party and this establishes a common agreement on the process for such a right on the state party side.

Some may be concerned that this authority could be used poorly by the state executive committee. We believe this would generate blowback on those SLEC members using it in such a manner. However, we built in a more immediate check against such abuse by allowing counties to unite to counter such actions if they deem it

necessary. It could also be argued that SLEC has such authority now but without any limitations on usage by the bylaws. SLEC does many things without them being enumerated by the bylaws. This would establish a clear mechanism versus the existing silence on the matter.

All County affiliates, acting in concert may rescind the disaffiliation by each County Affiliate submitting to the State Executive Committee a notice to retain the disaffiliated county by majority vote of their County Executive Committee. Each county shall be allocated the same number of votes as delegates allocated in the most recent state convention. County affiliates have 30 days from the county disaffiliation to submit their notices.

As with many proposals, we believe that bylaws changes should take in communication and transparency for involved parties. We have included these ideas into this proposal to ensure such actions are informed and open.

3. Terminology Bundle

These proposals are grouped together as a single proposal:

- 4. Add Definitions Section
- 9. Update Terminology
- 34. District Caucus Participants
- 46. Credential Committee Authority

Committee Reasoning

This bundle includes items that use the updated terminology and make sense to pass together. The most notable term used is “qualified participant”.

4. Add Definitions Section [Terminology Bundle]

Article II. Definitions

The following definitions will apply throughout all Party governing documents.

“Affiliation certificate” means a document that may be requested by a person affiliating with LPTexas which adheres to Sec. 162.009 of Texas Election Code.

“County convention” means the convention in a county described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c).

“Declaration of vacancy” means a document describing the current circumstances and history that led to an office being declared vacant

“Delegation leader” means a member of a delegation whom a delegation has selected to represent them.

“District convention” means the convention in a government defined political district required to be held by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (b).

“District representative” means a SLEC member that represents a Texas senatorial district.

“General election” means an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs on fixed dates at which offices of the federal, state, and county governments are elected.

“Gubernatorial election” means the general election to elect a governor for a full term.

“LPTexas” and “Party” mean the Libertarian Party of Texas

“Party office” means any specified position to which a person can be elected to within the Party.

“Party officer” means a statewide official of LPTexas listed as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

“Plank” means an issue statement listed on the Party platform that is contained under its own unique heading identifier.

“Precinct convention” means a convention of a voting precinct in the county as described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c)

“Public office” means office elected by the public or appointed by the state or county.

“Qualified Participant” means a delegate or alternate currently able to vote and conduct business at a convention of the Party.

“Regional caucus” means a meeting of a group of qualified participants that are registered to vote within a given region.

“State Convention” means the convention of LPTexas described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (a).

“Unaffiliated county” means a county that is not recognized by LPTexas as being affiliated.

“Voter registration certificate”, also known as “voter registration”, “voter registration card”, or “voter ID” means the documentation of voter registration issued by the state of Texas.

“Voting Member” means a class of membership as defined in II.e.2. Voting Membership.

Committee Reasoning

Over the years many words have been questioned in the bylaws. It would be helpful to have more clear definitions for some of these terms to help clarify meaning. This would create a new Article and renumber subsequent articles. This would also establish this section for future additions as the need arises.

5. Reorganize SLEC

III.a.4. Method of Selection.

- i. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of all the delegates at each State Convention.
- ii. The delegates present at each State Convention from each State Senatorial District shall meet and elect in district caucuses up to ~~two~~ one (1) District Representative and up to one (1) District Alternate from that State Senatorial District.

III.a.6.i. Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Should a vacancy exist in a District Representative or District Alternate seat the seat may be filled. If the Senate District has a District Alternate, then that District Alternate shall become the District Representative. If the Senate District does not have a District Alternate, then ~~the~~ the following procedure shall be used when filling a vacancy:

H. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all eligible counties. ~~The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first position available, and any additional positions shall be filled according to the next highest number of votes received.~~

(If Article II. Definitions is passed)

Article II. Definitions

“District Alternate” is an alternate representative of a Texas senatorial district but is not the District Representative.

(SLEC Bylaws)

I. Meetings of the State Executive Committee.

- 1) The state Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as “SLEC”, of the Libertarian Party of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the “Party”, shall meet at such times and places and in the manner required by:
 - (a) these rules;
 - (b) the action of the SLEC itself;
 - (c) the call of its Chair; or
 - (d) the action of the Convention which elected it.
- 2) The SLEC shall be required to meet upon the written request of one-third or more of its members.
- 3) Minutes or a transcript shall be taken at all meetings of the SLEC, and a written copy shall be furnished to each member of the SLEC within thirty days after the meeting.
- 4) All meetings of the SLEC of the Party, except for executive sessions solely for the holding of a trial and possible removal of a member of the SLEC, shall be open to attendance by the public and the press.
- 5) Notice of the time and place of all SLEC meetings shall be given to all members not less than four (4) weeks prior to each meeting.
- 6) No in person meetings of the SLEC shall be held outside the State of Texas.

- 7) If the District Representative is not present for roll call, then the District Alternate if present shall be seated. The District Alternate shall have speaking privileges at all meetings of SLEC.

**This motion shall take effect immediately upon adoption at this convention.

Committee Reasoning

In the past there have been multiple proposals to try and reduce the extremely large size of our State Executive Committee. SLEC in Texas is nearly twice as large as any other state executive body. We've kept this structure because, were we to exercise the option of becoming a primary party (or if we were successful enough to be forced into it), Texas Election Code demands that we have a body this big, along with a couple more requirements (opposite genders for Chair and VC, and alternate genders for SLEC reps).

This proposal is a compromise from others (the last attempt involved regional reps), where we keep the total number of members, but split them between representatives and alternates. This way if we were to turn into a primary party we could simply promote the alternates to reps and deal with the gender issue. This also keeps us in alignment with Texas Election Code, which requires us to:

“Provide for representative apportionment of party officers, convention delegates, any convention alternates, and convention officials throughout the state on the basis of population, party strength, or both, within the appropriate territorial unit;” (Election code 163.002(4))

At the end of the day, an executive committee should do boring but critically important things like update policies and approve budgets: if people feel left out of what LPTexas does every quarter because they are *not* on SLEC, the party needs to do a better job at having participation in the business of the party outside of being on SLEC. A smaller executive committee with fewer people that can devote a material amount of time to this critical oversight position serves the party much better than a huge body with people that are stretched and unable to commit the time necessary to acquire the requisite skills to be effective in the position. Instead, the party should operate through its paid and volunteer staff as leaders instead of simply electing more executive committee members.

Having more SLEC members than volunteers and staff also adds to leadership instability which can have a demoralizing effect upon those actively engaged in the everyday operations of the party. To quote Office Space: “Eight, Bob. So that means that when I make a mistake, I have eight different people coming by to tell me about it. That's my only real motivation is not to be hassled, that and the fear of losing my job. But you know, Bob, that will only make someone work just hard enough not to get fired.” There really can be too many cooks in the kitchen.

The largest companies in the world have boards that are only a dozen or so directors: the rest is left to the management of the company.

If we were a “flat, member driven” organization like a worker co-op, we wouldn't have much of an executive committee at all, and our bylaws would be focused on votes by the entire state party membership. Seems like what we have today is the worst of both worlds.

6. Agreements & First SLEC Meeting

III.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements.

The following items shall be completed within twenty (20) days of taking office or the member shall be removed and their seat be declared vacant:

- i. Each member shall take and sign the following oath, to be submitted to the Secretary, before serving on the SLEC: "I swear (or affirm) to uphold the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Texas, to fulfill my duties in accordance with the party bylaws, and to represent the Statement of Principles and policies to the best of my ability when acting in my duties as a representative of the Party."
- ii. Each member shall be required to sign and submit to the Secretary the following statement before serving on the SLEC: "I have reviewed the party bylaws, SLEC bylaws, and party policy documents. I acknowledge my responsibility to understand, follow, and maintain such documents in accordance with the LPTexas bylaws and policies."
- iii. Each member shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, as maintained by the SLEC, before serving on the SLEC. Any existing confidentiality agreements or related policies may be amended at a state convention.

III.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting.

Within the same day of the final adjournment of the State Convention the SLEC shall convene a business meeting; for the purposes of III.A.6.ii (B), this section shall constitute proper notice.

The SLEC in the Bylaws of SLEC shall maintain a bylaw governing the agenda of the first meeting, and shall not adjourn *sine die* without completing all items outlined in that agenda.

(SLEC Bylaws amendment)

I. Meetings of the State Executive Committee.

- 1) The state Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as "SLEC", of the Libertarian Party of Texas, hereinafter referred to as the "Party", shall meet at such times and places and in the manner required by:
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 - (b) the action of the SLEC itself;
 - (c) the call of its Chair; or
 - (d) the action of the Convention which elected it.
- 2) The SLEC shall be required to meet upon the written request of one-third or more of its members.
- 3) Minutes or a transcript shall be taken at all meetings of the SLEC, and a written copy shall be furnished to each member of the SLEC within thirty days after the meeting.
- 4) All meetings of the SLEC of the Party, except for executive sessions solely for the holding of a trial and possible removal of a member of the SLEC, shall be open to attendance by the public and the press.
- 5) Notice of the time and place of all SLEC meetings shall be given to all members not less than four (4) weeks prior to each meeting.
- 6) No in person meetings of the SLEC shall be held outside the State of Texas.
- 7) The agenda of the initial meeting of the SLEC after a State Convention shall be:
 - (a) Roll call
 - (b) Presentation of state and SLEC bylaws with changes noted
 - (c) Presentation and review of state policies

- (d) Introduction to SLEC membership, communication tools, and systems
 - (e) Introduction of any established staff and staff structure
 - (f) Oath and signing agreements in accordance with III.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements
 - (g) Reviewing the SLEC mission statement
 - (h) Budget and expenditure authorizations, if needed
 - (i) New business: to consider new business each item requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote
- 8) The initial meeting shall not adjourn *sine die* without completing all items outlined in the agenda.

Committee Reasoning

The time right after a state convention is a very tumultuous time: there are usually some number of new officers, and certainly a slew of new SLEC representatives. Having clearly written procedures in the governing documents detailing precisely how this new body conducts an initial meeting, providing for introductions, a proper swearing in, and review of all the governing documents properly prepares the new Executive Committee to be able to conduct the business of running the party. It also works to forestall people from pushing the brand-new SLEC into making very controversial decisions before the body can properly absorb who the other members are and their overall position and scope of what they need to do.

7. Qualifications of SLEC

III.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.

- i All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
- ii All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be residents of the region or political subdivision they represent, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of such region or political subdivision shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
- iii No person shall hold more than one membership on the SLEC at the same time.
- iv No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without having submitted an application to the Party Secretary that indicates ~~showing~~ interest in filling the position, and verifies Voting Member status. SLEC shall maintain a policy concerning the distribution of applicant information to election participants.
- v No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing the most recent Party Platform, noting any disagreements with planks, and then submitting it to the state Party Secretary. This document shall be made available to all participants voting on the election.
- vi No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing agreement to the Libertarian pledge. "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

Committee Reasoning

The overall intent of adding application requirements to SLEC was so that the convention or regional caucus participants were to have much more information about the candidates in advance of their election, so that the decisions can be more well considered than is even possible during a jam-packed convention schedule. Since the national pledge is so pervasive in the party, we wanted to adopt the same practice.

8. Voting Membership Eligibility [NC Bundle]

II.e.1. Voting Membership Eligibility.

A person is eligible to become a Voting Member of the Party if the person:

- i is a qualified Texas voter;
- ii ~~generally supports the Party's Statement of Principles; and~~ signs a statement of general agreement with the Party's Statement of Principles;
- iii ~~is not affiliated with any other political party.~~ signs the Libertarian Pledge: "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."; and
- iv is not:
 - a) affiliated with any other political party;
 - b) seeking nomination for public or party office in or by any other political party, or;
 - c) a candidate for election to public office by any other political party.

II.e.3. Termination of Voting Membership.

A person's Voting Membership shall terminate if the person:

- i submits written declaration terminating his/her Voting Membership to any Party official;
- ii ceases to be eligible to affiliate with the Libertarian Party of Texas;
- iii ceases to be eligible for Voting Membership under ~~subsection (a)~~ II.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility; or
- iv fails to affiliate with the Party on the date of the next Precinct Conventions.

**This motion shall take effect immediately upon adoption at this convention.

Committee Reasoning

Bylaws should always avoid using language that gives no verifiable method of implementation: statements like "generally supports" can either apply or not apply depending on the whims of the people who enforce the provision (if they are enforced at all). By making this a more mechanical process of signing a statement, we no longer put people in the awkward position of making some type of value judgment on another person based on some incredibly vague standard; Instead this requires the person who wishes to be a Voting Member to have considered the matter and sign a statement based on their own information and belief. And since it does require written attestation, this bylaw should no longer be overlooked, as it so often is.

This would also bring us in line with the national party pledge, which has been a long standing important part of the LP, by requiring agreeing with the national pledge for Voting Member status.

9. Update Terminology [Terminology Bundle]

III.a.6.ii. Removal from Office for Absences.

- A If a ~~an~~ Party officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.

III.a.4. Method of Selection.

- i The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of all the qualified participants ~~delegates~~ at each State Convention.
- ii The qualified participants ~~delegates~~ present at each State Convention from each State Senatorial District shall meet and elect in district caucuses up to two representatives from that State Senatorial District.

IV.d.3. Seating of Delegates and Alternates.

- i Qualified participants ~~Delegates~~ shall be seated together by County at the State Convention.
- ii Alternates shall become qualified participants ~~be seated~~ in order of precedence to fill any vacancies up to the maximum allotment of available delegate seats for the County they represent.
- iii Nonvoting alternates shall remain in a designated alternate seating area until such time as they are called to fill a vacancy.

IV.e.3. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions.

- i All qualified participants ~~delegates~~ at any convention shall be eligible to vote on all matters before the floor of that Convention, except for district caucuses at County Conventions and regional caucuses at State Conventions.
- ii In order to vote on any given matter, a qualified participant ~~delegate~~ must be present on the floor at the time the vote is taken.
- iii Each qualified participant ~~delegate~~ present shall have one vote.
- iv A person must be a Voting Member of the Party in order to participate in procedures at a Convention or serve as a qualified participant ~~delegate~~.

IV.e.4. Quorum.

The quorum at any Convention shall be a majority of the ~~delegates or~~ qualified participants registered as attending.

Delegates and alternates may permanently leave the State Convention by submitting signed notification to the Credentials Committee at which point they will be removed from the permanent roll.

IV.e.5. Voting Procedures.

- v If a roll call vote is taken, polling shall be by alphabetical call of all qualified participants ~~delegates registered as attending~~.
- vii The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates and alternates shall not be permitted at any level of the Convention process.

IV.e.6. Limits on Discussion.

- i No qualified participant ~~delegate~~ shall speak for more than five minutes on any one motion at any Convention; provided, however, that the persons ~~delegates~~ making the majority and minority reports of any committees may speak on such reports for not exceeding ten (10) minutes each and then may answer legitimate questions relating to such reports from any qualified participant ~~delegate~~.

IV.e.9. Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.

- iii Each proposed plank or amendment must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified participants ~~voting delegates~~ for inclusion in the Platform.
- iv An existing plank may be deleted before its scheduled sunset date by a majority of the qualified participants ~~delegates~~.
- v Proposed resolutions must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified participants ~~voting delegates~~ for adoption by the Convention.

IV.e.10.iv.A. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.

- 2 Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each qualified participant ~~delegate~~ shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.
- 7 The qualified participants ~~delegates~~ of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates for Public or Party Offices as long as the ability to vote “against” each nominee is included.

IV.e.10.iv.B. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.

1. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each qualified participant ~~delegate~~ shall have the option to vote for or against each nominee.
7. The qualified participants ~~delegates~~ of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates as long as the ability to vote against each nominee is included.

Committee Reasoning

These are terminology updates to harmonize language.

The words “delegate”, “alternate”, “delegates and alternates”, and “qualified participant” have been incorporated into the bylaws through various revisions which has created an inconsistent hodgepodge of word usage that could give rise to questions on meaning. A common use of “qualified participant” used appropriately can convey the concept of “those who can vote on the floor” and remove ambiguities. The terms “delegate” and “alternate” are thus left to retain their specific meanings.

10. Change Temporary Chair to County Affiliation

~~III.b.2. Appointment of Temporary Chairs.~~

~~The State Chair or his designates may appoint a Temporary County Chair for any county which is not yet organized. The State Executive Committee may establish a reasonable vetting policy governing the appointment of Temporary County Chairs. Such Temporary Chairs shall serve only until their County Party elects its own Chair at the next County Convention. The SLEC may remove such Temporary Chairs from office for any reasons they deem proper.~~

III.b.2. Affiliation of Counties.

III.b.2.i. Establishment of Provisional Affiliate and Appointing a County Chair

The SLEC shall maintain a policy to establish a provisional county affiliate in any currently unaffiliated county. This policy shall include a process for vetting and appointing a County Chair for the provisional affiliate and assigning the provisional affiliate a set of bylaws, which shall include rules pertaining to establishment of a County Executive Committee.

III.b.2.ii Transition from Provisional Affiliate

A county affiliate shall no longer be considered provisional when it has successfully conducted a County Convention and submitted all records thereof to the State Party.

SLEC retains the right to disaffiliate a provisional county affiliate at any time for any reason by majority vote. A provisional county affiliate shall be considered disaffiliated when all recognized members of the CEC have resigned.

Committee Reasoning

Today, the bylaws barely even acknowledge counties as full-fledged affiliates; instead, it has vague language revolving around County Chairs. This proposal changes this language to instead address affiliates as formal entities, and instructs SLEC to have policies that not only deal with vetting and appointing County Chairs, but also to provide the county with the necessary bylaws so that it can establish a CEC which is required for the county to nominate candidates per the Texas Election Code.

11. Assign District Chairs to Handle District Matters [NC Bundle]

III.c. District and Precinct Executive Committees.

III.c.1. District Executive Committees.

Whenever these ~~Rules~~ bylaws or the actions of the SLEC require action by a District Executive Committee, the membership of any such District Executive Committee shall consist of the County Chairs for counties wholly or partially contained within ~~the~~ that district.

- i. If at the time a District Executive Committee is required there is no District Chair, the State Chair shall appoint one of the District Executive Committee members to be the District Chair.

- ii. The District Executive Committee may, by majority vote of the entire committee, replace the current District Chair with another member of the District Executive Committee.
- iii. On the day following the date of district conventions, all District Chair positions shall be considered vacant.

III.c.2. Commissioner’s Precincts and Justice Precincts Executive Committees.

The Precinct Chairs within a Commissioner’s Precinct, Justice Precinct or other such local entity within a county shall constitute the District Executive Committee and such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Committee.

IV.c. District Conventions

1. A District Convention will be held on the designated date and time ~~in even-numbered years~~ for each district which is made up of more than one county or parts of more than one county, and for which district at least one (1) person has filed with the State Chair an application as a candidate for nomination for public office.
2. All candidates for the Party’s nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and are encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.
3. The District Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions of that year, and are Voting Members.
4. ~~Within~~ ~~Between 10 days and~~ twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall send each County Chair a correspondence informing the chair that they are ~~to constitute a member of a District Executive Committee~~ (as specified in these ~~bylaws~~ rules) for each district for which at least one (1) person has ~~or more candidates have~~ filed an application for nomination. The correspondence shall contain the following:
 - i. A list of the districts which are contained in whole or in part in the county for which one or more applications for nomination have been received;
 - ii. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Chairs of the other affiliated counties in each such district;
 - iii. Identifies which member of the District Executive Committee is the District Chair;
 - iv. A list of candidates who have filed for the Party’s nomination for ~~that~~each district.
5. The District Executive Committee shall determine the time and location of the District Convention for that district. Care shall be given to minimize scheduling conflicts between overlapping districts.
- ~~6. Each District Executive Committee member shall report their vote on the district convention location to the state chair at least 15 days before the district convention. Any votes not submitted 15 days prior shall be considered an abstention. If no District Executive Committee member submits a vote 15 days prior, the state chair may select a location and time within the district. If there is a deadlock on the District Executive Committee and no proposal can gain a plurality 15 days in advance, the state chair shall pick from among the proposals that were tied for the most votes.~~
6. All members of each District Executive Committee shall be notified and have the opportunity to vote in the location selection. The District Chair shall report to the state chair at least fifteen (15) days before the district convention the location and time of the convention. If the District Chair fails to report in time the state chair may select a location and time within the district.

Committee Reasoning

The primary reason for a District Executive Committee is to set the locations for the District conventions. The current process to do this is extremely chaotic, requiring the State Party, 15 days before said District conventions, to hound the DEC members, get votes, then tabulate results. After that, the State Chair has to break ties or set locations for any defunct DEC. Instead of this crazy process, this proposal gives the District Executive Committee a Chair, and pushes the State Chair to select the right Chairs: people that could set location and solicit input from the other county chairs. This selection occurs long before the district conventions and gives the DEC a defined point of contact to route through and time to deal with the convention(s) properly. If a DEC prefers another method of organizing, it still retains the authority to do so.

12. Credentials Requirements

III.b.4. Automatic ~~Disaffiliation for Failure to Hold a County Convention~~**Removal.**

Any County Affiliate ~~Chair who~~ that, for whatever reason, fails to hold a County Convention ~~in an even-numbered year~~ in accordance with these ~~bylaws~~ **Rules**, or who fails to ~~report~~ **deliver within ten (10) days after a County Convention in a timely manner** the ~~county convention documents~~ **results of such a Convention** to the State Chair or ~~their designees~~ **such officer designated to process such reports**, shall be ~~dissaffiliated~~ **no longer be County Chair**. ~~Any vacancy thus created may be filled by appointment by the State Chair.~~

The county convention documents of a County Convention are:

- i. A roster of participants in the County Convention;
- ii. A list of elected CEC members;
- iii. A copy of current county bylaws if updated;
- iv. A list of candidates, if any, nominated by the convention and certified in accordance with Texas Election Code Sec. 181.068;
- v. The minutes of the county convention;
- vi. A list of elected district delegates, if any; and
- vii. A list of elected state delegates and alternates, if any.

The presiding officer of the County Convention shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the voter registration ID, date of birth, full name, address, and email address or phone number for any persons listed on any roster or list required by this section.

Failure to deliver this information could result in rejection or disqualification as indicated in other sections of these bylaws.

IV.d.4.iii. Credentials Committee.

The SLEC shall maintain policy to govern the responsibilities and authority of the Credentials committee on any topics not established in these bylaws.

The Credentials Committee of the State Convention, not fewer than sixty (60) days prior to the County Convention, shall notify county chairs of each Affiliated County reminding them of their obligation to read,

understand, and fulfill the requirements prescribed by these bylaws in order for their conventions to be considered valid and for the credentialing of their elected delegates to state convention.

IV.a. Precinct Conventions.

- ~~1 A Precinct Convention will be held in even-numbered years in accordance with these Rules.~~
- 2 The County Executive Committee shall set the place and time on the designated date for convening the precinct conventions, but no Precinct Convention, if held on a Monday through Friday, may convene prior to 7pm in a county with a population over 500,000, or 6pm in a county with a population at or fewer than 500,000.
- 3 To be eligible to participate in a precinct convention, a person must be a registered voter of the precinct, ~~and~~ ~~†~~ the person must also be a Voting Member of the Party.
- 4 Each Precinct Convention shall automatically elect all participants thereof to be delegates to the County convention and shall elect no alternates. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the Precinct Convention to be elected a delegate to the County Convention.
- 5 Attendees for the convention may be pre-registered for the convention by electronic or paper registration.
- 6 The Precinct Convention Chair may electronically scan and electronically submit convention documents to the County Chair and ~~state Party~~ State Chair.
- 7 A Precinct Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
 - i it meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.062 through 181.067;
 - ii the CEC notifies the State Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the precinct convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - iii the precinct convention chair or their designee delivers a signed list of precinct convention participants to the County Chair and State Chair no later than the third (3rd) day after the date of the precinct convention.

IV.b. County Conventions.

IV.b.1. County Conventions General.

- i A County Convention will be held on the designated date and time ~~in even-numbered years~~ in accordance with these bylaws. ~~the Texas Election Code.~~
- ii Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall notify each county chair of any candidates who have filed with the State Chair that are required to be nominated at a County Convention.
- iii All candidates for the Party's nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.
- iv The County Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year, and who are Voting Members.
- ~~v The County Convention shall elect delegates to the State Convention and to any appropriate District Conventions:~~
 - ~~i County Conventions may elect a number of alternates to the State Convention not to exceed the total number of delegates allocated to that county.~~
 - ~~ii All delegates and alternates elected by a county convention must be qualified voters of that county.~~

- ~~iii — A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the County Convention to be elected a delegate or alternate to the State or District Conventions.~~
- ~~iv — Alternate delegates to the State Convention shall be assigned a number corresponding to the precedence of seating in the case that a delegate is not currently seated. The number assigned shall be a whole number between 1 and the total number of alternate delegates. If the county has not done so by whichever method it chooses, then the assignment of precedence number shall be chosen by random lottery by the chair of the state Party.~~
- vi Unless specifically addressed by the County bylaws, all delegates may vote for nomination of candidates for districts that are entirely contained within the county and for which an application for nomination was filed with the State Chair or with the County Chair as required by the Election Code.
- vii A County Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
 - i it meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.063 and Sec. 181.064 by posting public notice of the hour and place of the precinct and county conventions;
 - ii the CEC notifies the state Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the county convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - iii the CEC is able to produce valid evidence of proper notice of precinct and county conventions upon request by either the state Party officers or by the Credentials committee.

IV.b.2. State Delegates and Alternates from a County Affiliate.

The County Convention may elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention and to any appropriate District Conventions.

- i County Conventions may elect a list of delegates and a list of alternates to the State Convention, and each list shall not exceed the total number of delegates allocated to that county.
- ii All delegates and alternates elected by a county convention must be qualified voters of that county, and Voting Members.
- iii A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the County Convention to be elected a delegate or alternate to the State or District Conventions.
- iv Alternates shall be assigned a number corresponding to their precedence of seating. The number assigned shall be a whole number between 1 and the total number of alternates. Unless another method is chosen at the County convention, then the assignment of precedence number shall be chosen by random lottery by the Credentials committee.
- v Each delegate and alternate shall not be credentialed unless their voter registration ID, date of birth, full name, address, and either email address or phone number is provided to the Party in a manner prescribed by the State Chair.

Committee Reasoning

During convention season, the state party credentialing process is the place where nearly all the bylaws rubber meets the road: it's during this process whereby county conventions are deemed valid and rosters are verified. The credentials committee has very little time (about 3 weeks) to do all this work. These changes establish clear standards and processes for implementing arguably the most critical procedure invoked every 2 years.

This will not only make credentialing easier, it will eliminate risks for LPTexas's ballot access and candidates due to paperwork anomalies.

13. Background Checks

III.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.

vi The candidates for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall have a financial and criminal background check on file with the Party. The credentials committee by majority vote may disclose to the state convention any information contained in the background check that the committee determines is material to their ability to execute the duties of the office they seek. The background check may be conducted up to 90 days prior to the state convention and no later than 7 days prior for candidates who have submitted an application to the Secretary and \$100 fee payable to the Party.

Committee Reasoning

In nearly every private company or non-profit organization with significant funds, embezzlement and misuse of funds is an ever-present problem. A common practice to mitigate these problems is to have the critical officers and staff who are in a position to abuse their authority have a background check performed to ensure that the party is informed of any material issues which indicates the candidate could be ethically compromised. The fee is to offset the approximate cost of these checks.

14. Clarifying Filling Vacancies [NC Bundle]

III.a.6. Vacancies and Removal from Office.

III.a.6.i. Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Should a vacancy exist in a District Representative seat the seat may be filled. The following procedure shall be used when filling a vacancy.

- A. ~~“Eligible” counties f~~For the purposes of this section, an “Eligible County” ~~filling a SLEC vacancy are those~~ is an affiliated county~~ies~~ that ~~is~~are wholly or partially within the senate district.
- B. Voting Members shall be eligible to be nominated only after they have met all requirements set forth in III.a.3 (Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members).
- C. A majority of CEC members in an Eligible County~~ies~~ may nominate one Voting Member from their own county~~ies~~ for each available position in that district and send nominations to the State Chair.
- D. The State Chair shall notify and communicate relevant qualification documentation to all Eligible Counties and to the SLEC ~~for of~~ the nominations.
- E. Following the initial nomination notifications from the State Chair, all Eligible Counties have thirty (30) days to submit additional nominations which shall be shared with all Eligible Counties and the SLEC as in subsection (D).

- F. Each Eligible County may cast a ballot indicating a for or against vote for each of the nominated candidates starting thirty (30) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair and continuing to forty five (45) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair. Any votes not received after that time will be considered as against the candidate(s).
- G. The procedure for determining how each Eligible County's ballot is cast ~~vote results~~ shall be in accordance with that county's bylaws that are on file with the Party.
- H. Each cast ballot shall be submitted to the State Secretary, or their designees.
- I. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all Eligible Counties. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first position available, and any additional positions shall be filled according to the next highest majority number of votes received.

Committee Reasoning

If you are a County Chair or a SLEC member and had to read and follow these vacancy filling procedures, you'll understand why this in practice ended up hard to read. These changes were made to make the section much more understandable for the people to have to follow the process.

15. Rearranging Removal and Filling of Vacancies [NC Bundle]

~~III.a.6. Vacancies and Removal from Office.~~

~~III.a.6.ii. Removal from Office for Absences of Committee Members.~~

III.a.6.i Removal for Absences.

- A If an officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.
- B An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SLEC that requires a quorum and for which two (2) weeks notice was given.
- C Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

~~III.a.6.iii. Removal from Office for Cause.~~

- A A member of the SLEC may be removed for causes other than repeated absences from meetings by a three-fourths vote of the other members of the Committee.
- B Procedures set forth in the Party's parliamentary authority for disciplinary action shall be adhered to in order to protect the rights of both the accused and of the organization, including:
 - 1 the appointment of an investigating committee;
 - 2 the adoption of a resolution preferring specific charges;
 - 3 setting a special executive committee meeting for a trial; and
 - 4 the holding of a trial of the accused.

~~III.a.7~~6.i. Filling Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Should a vacancy exist in a District Representative seat the seat may be filled. The following procedure shall be used when filling a vacancy.

- A. "Eligible" counties for the purposes of filling a SLEC vacancy are those affiliated counties that are wholly or partially within the senate district.
- B. Eligible counties may nominate one Voting Member from their own counties for each available position in that district and send nominations to the state chair.
- C. The State Chair shall notify all eligible counties and the SLEC of the nominations.
- D. Following the initial nomination notification from the State Chair, all eligible counties have 30 days to submit additional nominations.
- E. Each eligible county may cast a ballot indicating a for or against vote for each of the nominated candidates starting 30 days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair and continuing to 45 days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair.
- F. The procedure for determining each county's vote results shall be in accordance with that county's bylaws that are on file with the Party.
- G. Each cast ballot shall be submitted to the State Secretary.
- H. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all eligible counties. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first position available, and any additional positions shall be filled according to the next highest number of votes received.

Committee Reasoning

This is a simple reordering of the removal and vacancy section to allow for easier future changes and to simplify the title language.

16. Lifetime Memberships [NC Bundle]

Article II.e.4. Lifetime Members

The SLEC shall manage policies pertaining to Lifetime Memberships that will exist for as long as a person is alive. The donation amount required to become a Lifetime Member shall be managed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the SLEC but not fall below \$1836.

Such Lifetime Members shall be recognized as such, and shall be granted any benefits, perquisites, or entitlements as may be established by LPTexas from time to time for as long as they live. Further, each such Lifetime Member shall receive a document signed by all then-current officers of LPTexas certifying their Lifetime Member status.

This section of the bylaws or any bylaws alteration pertaining to the removal of the Lifetime Member class must be approved by a state convention with three-fourths (3/4) vote.

Committee Reasoning

If the party creates a lifetime membership, then the bylaws are the best place to codify it due to the longevity of bylaws and the high threshold to change them.

17. National Delegate Eligibility [NC Bundle]

IV.d.9.i. National Delegate Eligibility

A person is eligible to become a delegate to the National Convention if the person:

- A. Is a Voting Member of the Party and
- B. has signed the Libertarian pledge. "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

Committee Reasoning

Currently the LPTexas bylaws don't have a provision for national delegate eligibility, even though the national party does. This places the bare minimum of requirements for eligibility: namely, that they are a valid Voting Member of LPTexas, and that they have signed the same pledge they would have had to have signed (or at least agreed to) to be a sustaining member of national.

18. Superiority [NC Bundle]

Change all instances of "rules" to "bylaws" where they reference the bylaws of LPTexas.

II.b. Bylaws.

These bylaws ~~Rules~~ shall be considered the Rules ~~ByLaws~~ of the Party for the purposes of Texas Election Code (Title 10, Subtitle A, Chapter 163).

V.c. Temporary Amendments.

- 1 Between State Conventions these bylaws ~~rules~~ may be temporarily amended for good cause by a vote of four-fifths (4/5) of the entire membership of the SLEC, provided:
 - i each member of the SLEC shall receive written notice including the full text of any proposed amendment at least two (2) weeks prior to any meeting held to consider temporary amendments to the Rules; or
 - ii if the vote on the proposal is by mail ballot then the ballot shall contain the full text of any proposed amendment.
- 2 On subjects not covered by these bylaws, the State Chair may specify an amendment to take effect at the adjournment of the next meeting of the SLEC if the amendment is approved by a four-fifths (4/5) of the entirety of the SLEC. This temporary amendment, once approved, is treated as a temporary amendment as described in this section.
- 3 All such temporary amendments shall remain in effect only until the final adjournment of the next State Convention after their adoption, and they must be presented to that Convention for approval in the form of proposed amendments to the Rules.

- 4 If any temporary amendment is rejected by a State Convention following its temporary adoption neither that amendment nor any other having substantially the same effect may be considered again until the next State Convention thereafter.

V.f.1. Superiority.

- i These bylaws ~~Rules~~, as permanently amended by State Conventions, shall constitute the permanent and continuing bylaws~~Rules~~ of the Libertarian Party of Texas, wholly superseding, ~~amending,~~ nullifying and rescinding all previous bylaws, rules, Constitutions, and resolutions.
- ii The Bylaws of SLEC shall be permanent and continuing.
- iii The SLEC may establish a permanent and continuing set of policies that govern Party organization and procedures. These policies shall be created, maintained, or dissolved by the SLEC. No policies may supersede these bylaws ~~Rules~~. Any policies found to contradict or conflict with these bylaws ~~Rules~~ are void.
- ~~iv — On subjects not covered by these Rules, the State Chair may specify a temporary rule to take effect at the adjournment of the next meeting of the SLEC if the rule is approved by that body by a four-fifths (4/5) vote. This temporary rule, once approved, is treated as a temporary amendment as described herein.~~

Committee Reasoning

The term “bylaws” and “rules” have been used interchangeably in the past: “bylaws” is what is referred to by our parliamentary authority, Robert’s Rules of Order, while “rules” is derived from the Texas Legislature when crafting legislative language which governs political parties in Texas. Since LPTexas operates using Robert’s Rules of Order, the committee asserts that it is more important for LPTexas to use the terminology we use everyday, and not legislative language that we only refer to and comply with when it applies to us. It also moves a temporary amendment clause into its proper section.

19. Committee Reports

IV.e.8.iv. Committee Reports.

- A The chair of each committee, ~~or~~ and the chair’s designees, shall report the committee’s recommendations to the floor of the Convention. Recommendations on the report may be made individually or as a whole. The convention chair or committee chair shall preside over any discussion and any votes on recommendations.
- B ~~Any~~ committee may also issue a minority report or reports which shall have priority of consideration ~~as proposed~~ and from which specific amendments or substitutions may be moved to the majority recommendations of the committee as long as it has the support of the greater of two (2) or one-third (1/3) of the members of the committee.
- ~~C — After minority reports have been dealt with, any delegate may move to amend the recommendation, providing that the substance of such proposal shall have been considered by the committee or shall have been presented to the committee for its consideration.~~
- C Each proposed amendment or substitution to a recommendation shall be debated and voted upon separately.

Committee Reasoning

LPTexas has usually around 4 hours each every 2 years to make changes to its bylaws and platform, respectively. With this short of a period of time and the extremely large body present at a state convention, wordsmithing from the floor is many times a fool's errand. The way this section was written a member could argue to an unsuspecting committee that they could simply send an email the day before convention and have this be sufficient to be "properly presented". This change instead presses members to work with the appropriate committees and, even if the committee is not in full agreement a member should be able to get 2 members of that committee to place it in a minority report, at a bare minimum. The convention has other procedural means at its disposal if it feels that it *has to* take up a proposal from the floor.

20. Tenure Qualification

III.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.

- i All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
- ii All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be residents of the region or political subdivision they represent, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of such region or political subdivision shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
- iii No person shall hold more than one membership on the SLEC at the same time.
- iv No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without having submitted an application to the Party Secretary showing interest in filling the position.
- v No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing the most recent Party Platform, noting any disagreements with planks, and then submitting it to the state Party Secretary.
- vi No person shall be eligible to become a SLEC member that has not been a Voting Member during the last two (2) previous calendar years at the time of their selection unless granted exception by a majority of qualified participants at a State Convention or by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the entirety of the SLEC.

Committee Reasoning

One of the hardest problems that SLEC has every term is trying to educate brand new members to the party who happen to also be the only members (or only interested members) of a state senate district on how to fulfill the duties required to be on the state executive committee. Members of a convention rarely, if ever, decline to have representation if representation is offered, even if it may ultimately be more of a burden to the party than a boon. Nature abhors a vacuum. This proposal makes it so that a member who believes they are qualified for executive leadership has to at least be around the party long enough to absorb some of the procedures and get acquainted with the other party members by osmosis and exposure.

However, there are people, for example people of extraordinary ability and hunger that would be a boon to the party, that simply didn't become Voting Members soon enough before asking to be on SLEC. This proposal gives a convention or SLEC the ability to take this into consideration and make an exception if one is warranted.

21. Officer Duties

III.a.5. Duties.

- i The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party, and may perform the duties of any other Party officer whenever such an officer is unable to do so.
- ii The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the Chair.
- ~~iii The Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall conduct mail balloting; shall give all notices required by these rules; shall maintain and certify the official copies of the Rules and Platform; shall maintain a roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of the SLEC, of County Chairs and of candidates for the Party's nomination for public office; shall cause the minutes or transcripts of meetings of the SLEC to be furnished to the members of the SLEC as specified in these rules; and perform such other duties as the Chair directs.~~
- iv The Secretary shall:
 - A keep such minutes and records as are necessary for the operations of the Party;
 - B manage the balloting process of the SLEC;
 - C give all notices required by these bylaws;
 - D maintain and certify the official copies of the bylaws and Platform;
 - E maintain a roster of names, addresses, emails, other electronic communication identifiers, and telephone numbers of members of:
 - i) the SLEC;
 - ii) County Chairs of Affiliated Counties;
 - iii) candidates for the Party's nomination for public office;
 - F furnish the minutes and/or transcripts of the Party to all members of the SLEC upon request;
 - G maintain a record of a sunset date for each platform plank;
- ~~v The Treasurer shall maintain Party bank accounts and other financial assets, shall ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party, shall issue financial statements to the SLEC at least quarterly, shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these rules and state or federal law.~~
- vi The Treasurer shall:
 - A maintain the Party bank accounts and other financial assets;
 - B ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party;
 - C issue financial statements to the SLEC at least quarterly; and
 - D ensure that party funds are disbursed only according to these bylaws, state, and federal law.
- vii The District Representatives shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
- viii All members of the SLEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these ~~bylaws~~**Rules**, or assigned by the Chair or the SLEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal and ~~or~~ state law, or by action of the SLEC or by these rules.

Committee Reasoning

If you are elected as an officer, you really want to read this section this way instead of using the existing structure.

22. Clarify Affiliation [NC Bundle]

II.e.2. Voting Membership.

- i At any time an eligible person may become a Voting Member by affiliating with the Party and meeting the II.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility requirements.
- ii On request of a person desiring to affiliate with the Party, a member of a County Executive Committee for the county in which the person resides ~~may~~shall administer the oath of party affiliation. In unaffiliated counties a member of the State Executive Committee, a person specially designated by the State Executive Committee, the State Chair, or person otherwise allowed by Texas law shall affiliate the person making the request by administering the oath of party affiliation.
- iii After administering the oath, the person shall stamp the Party's name on the person's voter registration certificate or issue the person an affiliation certificate containing:
 - A) the name of the person to whom the certificate is issued;
 - B) the name of the Party ("Libertarian Party of Texas");
 - C) the name and official position of the issuer;
 - D) the function at which the affiliation occurred, if applicable; and
 - E) the date of affiliation.

Committee Reasoning

The election code states that the oath must be administered and our rules imply it is a choice. This fix is to align with the election code.

23. Duties of the State Executive Committee

III.a.5. Duties.

- i The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party.
- ii The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the Chair.
- iii The Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall conduct mail balloting; shall give all notices required by these rules; shall maintain and certify the official copies of the Rules and Platform; shall maintain a roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of the SLEC, of County Chairs and of candidates for the Party's nomination for public office; shall cause the minutes or transcripts of meetings of the SLEC to be furnished to the members of the SLEC as specified in these rules; and perform such other duties as the Chair directs.

- iv The Treasurer shall maintain Party bank accounts and other financial assets, shall ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party, shall issue financial statements to the SLEC at least quarterly, shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these rules and state or federal law.
- v The District Representatives shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
- vi All members of the SLEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these Rules, or assigned by the Chair or the SLEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal or state law, or by action of the SLEC or by these rules. All members shall maintain a working knowledge of the parties governing documents.

Committee Reasoning

State Executive Committee members should have a knowledge of party governing documents.

24. SLEC Recall from Office

III.a.6.ii. Removal by Recall.

A “Recall Petition” is a document containing a set of valid signatures that shall be clearly marked as a “recall”, and state that “By affixing your signature and information to this Recall Petition, you call for the SLEC Officer or District Representative indicated on this form be removed from the SLEC immediately.” Each signer shall print their name as it appears on their voter registration, signature, county, date of birth, and voter identification number. The signer must also include a phone number or email address to aid in verification questions.

The Officers shall designate a person or persons to collect the Recall Petition and verify that it adheres to the signature requirement. Upon verification the document shall be made available to the SLEC, and the listed SLEC member shall be immediately removed from their position.

To remove any SLEC member, including any Officer, one of the following processes shall be used to obtain a set of valid signatures for the Recall Petition:

- A. Obtaining a Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members that were registered as attending at the election of an officer or SLEC member according to the roll recorded in the relevant minutes, or
- B. Obtaining a formal Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members within the Party in the case of an officer, or the district in the case of a SLEC member. The full roster of Voting Members in each county involved in the recall must be made available to the state Party for verification or the signatures from that county shall be invalid.

Committee Reasoning

In many other organizations there are mechanisms available for an elected official to be recalled by those that elected them to office: in a representative body recall is by many considered superior to other methods of removal, such as removal for cause by other members of the representative body or through ineligibility or court action. This proposal outlines how such a procedure should be conducted in the context of LPTexas.

There are 2 mechanisms: one that is much easier to obtain but has corner cases that could render it impotent, and another mechanism that is much harder but can always be used.

The first mechanism is almost a literal “undo” button: we look at the minutes of the proceedings that got them elected, and if a majority of those same people decide that they made a bad choice, they can petition to “undo” that election. While this process requires a much lower vote threshold and uses a fairly easy to obtain list of members, there are several conditions where it literally can’t be used: if a district caucus no longer has enough of the original Voting Members to vote, or if the seat is filled through vacancy provisions which routes through the CEC’s, Voting Members are stuck with who they have, *unless*....

The second option is very cumbersome: in the case of District Representatives, all current Voting Members of that SD have to be contacted and lobbied to recall. In the case of *officers* the problem is much, much worse, as you have to get the majority of the Voting Members of the entire state.

The committee asserts that conventions, and especially district caucuses at convention, should take a considerably longer time to properly vet candidates to serve on SLEC instead of leaning on after-the-fact correction mechanisms like recall petitions. However, the committee also understands that if a situation is egregious enough, the Voting Members should have a mechanism to correct the problem before the next state convention. Hopefully this procedure is never used, or used only very rarely, like once every 10 years.

25. District Caucus Minutes [NC Bundle]

IV.d.7. Voting in District Caucuses.

District caucuses at State Conventions may elect their District Representatives in whatever manner they choose as long as all delegates and alternates present from that region are given an equal voice in the election.

Each district caucus shall submit minutes to the convention secretary containing a roster of participants and election results before a district election shall be considered valid.

Committee Reasoning

During the fast-paced time of a convention (do you see a theme here?), not having written minutes of a district caucus requires a lot of time for the convention officers or credentials committee to sort out. This makes it so that the results of the caucuses are clear and defensible if challenged.

26. Elections

IV.e.10. ~~Nominations for Public and Party Office.~~ Nominations and Elections.

IV.e.10.i. Filing Procedures.

[no changes]

IV.e.10.ii. Nominating Procedures.

~~B—All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made separately and not as a slate.~~

IV.e.10.iii Exclusions from Eligibility for Nomination to Public and Party Office.

[no changes]

IV.e.10.iv. Balloting for Candidate for Public and Party Office.

[no changes]

IV.5.j.~~56.~~ Declining to Nominate or Elect Candidate for ~~Public~~ Office.

~~A Convention may decline to nominate any candidate for public office, even if there are persons seeking the Party's nomination for that office.~~

A Convention, for any reason, may decline to nominate or elect any or all candidates for public office or Party office.

~~IV.e.10.vi. Procedures for Election to Party Office.~~

IV.e.10.vi-~~A.~~ Majority Required.

The vote of a majority of the qualified participants voting at the relevant ~~C~~convention or district caucus shall be necessary and sufficient for election to public or Party office, ~~except for the position of alternate to a national convention, which shall be as provided elsewhere in these rules.~~

IV.d.9. Election of Delegates to National Conventions.

IV.d.9.ii. National Alternates for Delegates.

At the national convention alternates shall serve in the same order of precedence as their vote ranking in the absence of delegates, except as may be provided otherwise by the rules of the national Party.

IV.d.9.ii.A. National Alternates Election.

Alternates to the national convention shall not require a majority to be selected.

~~IV.e.10.vi.B. Multiple Ballot Procedure.~~

~~1—Except as provided elsewhere in these Rules, in cases where no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on that ballot shall be stricken from all subsequent ballots and this process shall be repeated for as many ballots as necessary for some candidate to secure election.~~

~~2 After each ballot from which no candidate receives a majority, the Chair shall announce the total vote received by each candidate, including those to be stricken from subsequent ballots.~~

IV.e.10.vii.C. ~~None of the Above.~~ Right to Not Elect Candidates.

- A Qualified participants shall have the right to cast a vote against each candidate seeking Party or public office, and to not elect any person for a Party or public office.
- B Votes cast against a candidate or for “None of the Above” in voting for a Party or public office shall be considered valid and properly recorded.
- ~~C Should a majority of the votes be cast for “None of the Above” in an election for a Party office, then that office shall be declared vacant and shall be filled as provided elsewhere in these Rules, but none of the persons who sought that office in that election shall be eligible to hold that office for that term.~~

Committee Reasoning

You can tell this section has evolved over time. Some of the scenarios that these bylaws were designed to solve are no longer relevant.

- It is a common practice for county conventions (especially the larger ones) to save time during the compressed agenda by nominating delegates as a slate. Even if this rule were followed well, it is covered under Robert’s Rules of Order and could be considered redundant; in fact, using Robert’s rules allows the convention the flexibility that a bylaw would prohibit.
- Clarifies that people can be declined for Public and Party office instead of just Public.
- Strengthens NOTA by describing it as a near absolute right instead of just a phrase that rolls off the tongue: “None of the Above” is great vernacular, but “Right to Not Elect Candidates” has some serious teeth that says clearly “you MUST do this”. The rest of the rephrasing reinforces the strength of this provision.
- Removal of the subsection IV.e.10.vi moves all subsections up to make it clear they are for Party and Public office and not just Party office.
- The multiple ballot procedure is a holdover from the old balloting method that was never removed. Taking this out removes this confusing leftover that was in an odd position within the bylaws. The existing balloting procedure allows for alternative methods to be used if desired.

27. County Governing Authority [NC Bundle]

III.b.1. County Governing Authority.

- i There shall be in each affiliated county a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and such other ~~Party~~ officials of that county affiliate as the bylaws of that county affiliate may designate. ~~Any Party officials to serve on a County Executive Committee (except for the County Chair) must be appointed or elected according to a set of bylaws, to be drafted and ratified by the Voting Members of that county.~~

Committee Reasoning

A person reading this section without context could interpret this as a statement that literally every single county is affiliated already, which is certainly not how LPTexas operates. This brings the bylaws in harmony with the reality on the ground and simplifies the entire section.

28. Multi Seat Balloting Adjustment [NC Bundle]

IV.e.10.iv.B. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures

- i. The method for voting by multi seat ballot shall be Approval Voting.
- ii. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.
- iii. All votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
- ~~iv. No nominee receiving more against votes than for votes is eligible to win an election or entitled for nomination in subsequent elections for that office during that business session.~~
- iv. No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.
- v. All nominees that obtain more “for” votes than “against” votes are eligible nominees. Eligible nominees will be ranked in order of highest “for” count to lowest “for” count. In the case of a tie for votes, the higher preference shall be the eligible nominee with less “against” votes. If a tie occurs when eligible nominees have the same “for” and “against” votes, then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
- vi. Nominees will be seated in ranked order until all seats are filled or until there are no longer eligible nominees.
- vii. If all positions are not filled, the body may, by majority vote, open nominations to fill more positions.
- viii. The delegates of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates as long as the ability to vote against each nominee is included.

Committee Reasoning

This is another one of those artifacts from before we adopted Approval voting and a majority requirement: using other methods there could be multiple rounds of balloting, and this clause was meant to ensure that if you were “NOTA’d” by getting more against votes than for votes, you couldn’t advance to the next round of voting. With Approval Voting the filling process is easier, and if you don’t fill the seats with people with a majority of support, why can the convention or executive body not reconsider people who got more no’s? The convention body should be able to decide to reopen nominations or reconsider previous nominees if it so desires.

It also brings us into alignment with what we already say about single-seat elections.

29. SLEC Prohibitions

III.a.6.iv. Removal from Office for Opposition. (current bylaws)

Or

III.a.6.iii. Removal from Office for Opposition. (Proposal 15: Rearranging Removal and Filling of Vacancies)

No member of the SLEC may use any resources associated with or carrying the name of the Libertarian Party to promote or endorse any candidate from another political party. Such members in violation of this bylaw may be removed at the discretion of the SLEC by a simple majority vote of the entire SLEC.

Committee Reasoning

We are a political party, not an issues group, and we jump through a ton of hoops as a result of it. All of the hard work the party does to nominate candidates and maintain ballot access should never be undermined because certain people, based on their personal whims, prefer to support another party at certain times or with certain candidates. If they go so far as to do it with Libertarian Party resources, this is really an unforgivable offense to all of the others who have worked so hard to make the party what it is, good, bad or ugly. We should be able to remove individuals that misuse the assets of the party in this way.

30. Platform Changes [NC Bundle]

IV.e.9. Resolutions, Statement of Principles, and Platform Amendments.

- i The Statement of Principles adopted by the Party at the first State Convention in July, 1972, as amended in accordance with the ~~bylaws~~ ~~Rules~~, shall remain the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party. Aside from the Statement of Principles, the Party shall have no permanent Platform; all planks in the Platform adopted at a previous convention shall expire or sunset upon the end of the third convention from adoption (6 years) unless the plank is deleted, renewed, or ~~amended~~ ~~altered~~ by a subsequent convention ~~body~~. The Platform Committee shall have the authority to recommend changes to or deletions of any plank before its scheduled sunset date.
- ii Proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles and Platform must be voted upon separately on a plank by plank basis.
- iii Each ~~new~~ ~~proposed~~ plank or amendment to an existing plank must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting delegates for inclusion in the Platform.
- iv Each proposed amendment to the Statement of Principles must receive the votes of three-fourths (3/4) of the qualified participants, and this subsection (iv) shall not be amended or removed without a four-fifths (4/5) approval of qualified participants at a state convention.
- v An existing plank may be deleted before its scheduled sunset date by a majority of the delegates.
- vi Proposed resolutions must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting delegates for adoption by the Convention.

V.d. ~~Amendments to~~ Statement of Principles of the Party Bylaws Listing.

~~Whenever the Party by two-thirds vote at the State Convention amends the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party, such vote shall also constitute automatic amendment to the Preamble to these Rules to comply with the amended Statement of Principles.~~

An up to date version of the Statement of Principles shall be maintained as the preamble to these bylaws.

Committee Reasoning

This proposal cleans up language in the section and adds resolutions to the title since it includes that in the scope. This removes the SoP amendment process which seems to be orphaned in another section to fall in the same area already dealing with such changes and leaves a clear statement of intent about having the SoP in the bylaws.

31. Temporary Bylaws Amendment

V.c. Temporary Amendments.

- 5 All such temporary amendments shall remain in effect only until the final adjournment of the next State Convention after their adoption, and they must be presented to that Convention for approval in the form of proposed amendments to the Rules.
- ~~6 If any temporary amendment is rejected by a State Convention following its temporary adoption neither that amendment nor any other having substantially the same effect may be considered again until the next State Convention thereafter.~~

Committee Reasoning

Any State Convention that votes down a temporary bylaws amendment also elects the new SLEC. This creates a restriction on that new SLEC that is unnecessary and potentially dangerous. A poorly written temporary bylaw may become a hindrance when dealing with unforeseen issues outside of a convention.

32. Delegate Apportionment Fixes [NC Bundle]

IV.d.2. Apportionment of Delegates and Alternates.

- i The SLEC may limit the number of delegates and alternates that each county may elect to the State Convention to a fraction of the total number of votes cast in that county for all Libertarian nominees for statewide offices in the most recent general election for state and county officers. For the purposes of this section, nominees for federal offices are considered to be excluded. Such a fraction, if established, shall be uniform for all counties.
- ii The number ~~of delegates for each county~~ calculated under subsection (i) shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall not be fewer than three.
- iii An additional delegate seat, and an alternate seat shall be allocated for each ten percentage points received, up to fifty percent points, in the highest performing county race as measured by percentage in

the most recent general election. A county race for purposes of this section shall be defined as a race for public office nominated at county convention.

Committee Reasoning

Federal officers (President and US Senator) are not included when making this calculation today in practice already; this acknowledges the current procedure, as well as adding some other clarifying language.

33. Moving Scope of Balloting [NC Bundle]

IV.e.11 ~~10.iv~~. Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office.

IV.e.11.i ~~10.iv.A~~. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.

- 1 The method for voting by ballot shall be Approval Voting.
- 2 Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.
- 3 Total votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
- 4 No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.
- 5 The eligible nominee receiving the plurality of “for” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes, the nominee with the fewest “against” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes and “against” votes then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
- 6 Order of nominations. In voting on the nomination of candidates for Public Office, the offices shall be considered in the reverse of the order in which they appear on the general election ballot.
- 7 The delegates of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates for Public or Party Offices as long as the ability to vote “against” each nominee is included.

IV.e.11.ii ~~10.iv.B~~. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.

1. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote for or against each nominee.
2. All votes for and against a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
3. No nominee receiving more against votes than for votes is eligible to win an election or entitled for nomination in subsequent elections for that office during that business session.
4. All nominees that obtain more for votes than against votes are eligible nominees. Eligible nominees will be ranked in order of highest for count to lowest for count. In the case of a tie for votes, the higher preference shall be the eligible nominee with less against votes. If a tie occurs when eligible nominees have the same for and against votes, then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
5. Nominees will be seated in ranked order until all seats are filled or until there are no longer eligible nominees.
6. If all positions are not filled, the body may, by majority vote, open nominations to fill more positions.

7. The delegates of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates as long as the ability to vote against each nominee is included.

Committee Reasoning

Currently this is buried under the odd scope of the nominations section and it should be moved up a level out to its own subsection.

34. District Caucus Participants [Terminology Bundle]

IV.d.7. Voting in District Caucuses.

District caucuses at State Conventions may elect their District Representatives in whatever manner they choose as long as all delegates and alternates present from that region are given an equal voice in the election.

All delegates and alternates that are credentialed on the permanent roll may participate in the district caucus that they belong to, as found on their voter registration, regardless of their status as a qualified participant.

Committee Reasoning

When reading the current language, members and delegates have asked, reasonably, if the alternates were allowed to vote in the caucuses. The tradition has been to allow this, and this change brings the bylaws in alignment with this practice. There is no need to further restrict the number of people who vote in these caucuses. Remember, we do this via caucus because it is incredibly more cumbersome to require delegates to attend a district convention for their state senate district in order to elect their SLEC rep(s). However, restriction to a district caucus at a state convention already imposes the burden of having to not only be a state delegate or alternate, but also for most people a significant travel distance to go to the state convention. Until we are large enough to have large senate district conventions and move SLEC elections there, we should allow all members sent to the state convention, delegate or alternate, to participate in these caucuses.

35. Appearing Before Committees

~~IV.e.8.ii. Right of Delegates to Appear before Committees:~~

- ~~A—Any delegate to a Convention shall have the right to appear before any committee of that Convention and make recommendations for the committee's consideration.~~
- ~~B—A committee may make reasonable rules governing the time and manner of such presentations, which may include a requirement for submission of the proposal in writing to the Chair of the committee:
 - ~~1—Such submission in writing may not be required to be more than three days prior to the first official convening of the committee.~~
 - ~~2—No requirement may be adopted after it is too late to meet the requirement.~~~~

IV.e.8.ii. Right to Submit Proposals to Committees.

- A. Any Voting Member shall have the right to submit proposals to any committee of the state convention for its consideration. All such proposals shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the committee.
- B. No later than 30 days after the first meeting of the committee that committee shall adopt rules governing the time and manner in which Voting Members may present their proposal to the committee, and adopt a final date where consideration of new proposal submissions will be considered. Such rules shall be made available in a manner easily accessible by any Voting Member.
- C. The committee shall adopt no rule restricting which Voting Members may present proposals, and shall not deny any Voting Member the right to present a duly submitted proposal according to its rules.

Committee Reasoning

State law gives us an incredibly short window in between the time that delegates and alternates are elected and added to the credentials report (the first time the state party knows about them) and the actual convention. This change allows the committees to actually expand the scope of when they can consider wider input from the party at large by expanding the rights to Voting Members instead of just delegates. This way Voting Members can express their opinions well before county conventions and the reports can be finalized and distributed to the actual delegates and alternates much sooner than the current restrictions allow for. This is a material expansion of the rights of Voting Members.

36. Adding Sunlight to Sunsetting [NC Bundle]

IV.e.9. Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.

- i The Statement of Principles adopted by the Party at the first State Convention in July, 1972, as amended in accordance with the Rules, shall remain the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party. Aside from the Statement of Principles, the Party shall have no permanent Platform; all planks in the Platform adopted at a previous convention shall expire or sunset upon the end of the third convention from adoption (6 years) unless the plank is deleted, renewed, or altered by a subsequent convention body. The Platform Committee shall have the authority to recommend changes to or deletions of any plank before its scheduled sunset date.
- ii Proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles and Platform must be voted upon separately on a plank by plank basis.
- iii Each proposed plank or amendment must receive the votes of two-thirds of the voting delegates for inclusion in the Platform.
- iv An existing plank may be deleted before its scheduled sunset date by a majority of the delegates.
- v The Platform committee shall submit a report of any sunseting planks to the SLEC ninety (90) days before the state convention, or as soon as reasonably possible if the committee is formed after that deadline.
- vi Proposed resolutions must receive the votes of two-thirds of the voting delegates for adoption by the Convention.

Committee Reasoning

As it stands now the Platform committee may not bring up a sunseting plank at a convention and thus it would die silently. Adding in a bylaw that notified the party leadership of such sunseting planks would allow for more oversight and communication about planks that others outside the committee may find important.

37. Full Bylaws Language Fixes [NC Bundle]

The 2022 State Convention Rules committee shall be authorized to update all occurrences, where appropriate, of all variations of the word “rule” with appropriate usages of the word “bylaw” within the LPTexas Bylaws. The state officers elected at the 2022 state convention will give final approval of all changes.

Committee Reasoning

When you see other proposals, you see that we are normalizing the use of the term “bylaw(s)” instead of “rule(s)”. However, this committee is human, and we may have missed a direct replacement in the document. This grants the committee the authority to complete this process with the approval of the officers if we missed anything.

38. Removing Confusing Staff Wording [NC Bundle]

III.d.2 Powers of the State Executive Committee.

- ~~ii — The Chair of the State Executive Committee, subject to the approval of that Committee, or the State Executive Committee itself, may appoint, elect or employ any such officers and assistants as may be deemed necessary to assist the Committee in its function and in making arrangements for Conventions at that level.~~
- ii The State Executive Committee shall maintain policies to establish any staff as may be deemed necessary to assist the Party in its function. The State Executive Committee shall maintain a general policy to govern the removal of staff.

Committee Reasoning

This removes excessive and confusing wording to replace it with a more general understanding of dealing with staff. It is also more restrictive on SLEC in general as it requires them to maintain a formal policy as opposed to simply delegating authority.

39. Spending Authority (SLEC bylaws) [NC Bundle]

VI Approval of Expenditures.

- 1) The SLEC shall establish a categorized budget including expected revenues and expenses.
- 2) All budgets and all authorization of expenditures shall require a majority vote of the SLEC.
- ~~3) Authorization of all expenditures shall require a majority vote of the SLEC.~~
- 3) Disbursement of all party funds shall require the approval of either the Treasurer or the Chair.
- 4) The SLEC shall not take out loans nor incur credit card debt.
- 5) Unless by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the entire membership of the SLEC, the SLEC shall not obligate the Party to pay any financial commitment in excess of that which can be repaid from unrestricted cash and automatic recurring donations expected to be received within 6 months.

Committee Reasoning

If you have been to a SLEC business meeting in 2020-2022, you will be well aware of the “Texas two-step” with regards to needing to both approve of the budget and authorizing SLEC to make the expenditures. This was strongly enforced because of a peculiarity in this section of the bylaws of SLEC. The true spirit of the bylaws was the voting threshold of a majority vote of all of the SLEC: while SLEC can continue the Texas two-step in the 2022-2024 term, this proposal simplifies this by making the voting threshold the same for both.

40. Order of Business [NC Bundle]

IV.d.5. Order of Business.

At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:

- i The State Chair ~~G~~calls the Convention to order ~~by the State Chair~~;
- ii The SLEC-Credentials Committee report on the ~~t~~Temporary ~~r~~Roll;
- iii The State Chair introduces the temporary officers of the Convention, and the Temporary Chair resumes the Convention ~~turns over gavel to Temporary Chair if he or she has appointed someone other than himself or herself to act as Temporary Chair~~;
- iv Any ~~O~~opening ceremonies, ~~if any~~;
- v The Report of the Credentials Committee report and action ~~on its report~~ to establish the ~~p~~Permanent ~~r~~Roll;
- vi ~~N~~The nomination and election of permanent officers of the Convention;
- vii The Permanent Chair resumes the Convention ~~takes the chair~~;
- viii The Rules Committee ~~R~~report of the Rules Committee and action on its report;
- ix Nomination of candidates for public office;
- x Nomination and election of state Party officers;
- xi ~~Permanent~~The Chair announces clearly to the Convention ~~all delegates~~ the place of each regional caucus, ~~then declares a brief recess for such caucuses~~;
- xii Recess for regional caucuses;
- xiii Regional caucuses meet and elect District Representatives;
- xiv ~~Permanent~~The Chair calls the Convention back to order;
- xv Regional caucuses ~~report~~ submit their minutes to the Convention Secretary ~~on election of District Representatives~~;

- xvi Nomination and election, ~~(if any)~~, of delegates and alternates to the national convention;
- xvii ~~Report of t~~he Platform Committee ~~and action on its~~ report;
- xviii Nomination and election, ~~(if any)~~, of Presidential Elector candidates;
- xix Other business;
- xx Acceptance speeches, ~~(if any)~~, by ~~certain~~ nominees for public office;
- xxi Adjournment.

Committee Reasoning

The way this was written, it was organized such that the events department should just copy-paste this section of the bylaws into a program (it was probably also partially copy-pasted out of Robert's Rules, which can use some really old arcane language); the committee believed this was not how bylaws should be worded, and the committee fully trusts whomever generates the program and printed agenda to the convention to translate appropriately.

41. Moving Committees to be under State Convention [NC Bundle]

IV.d.4. Committees of the Convention.

~~IV.e.8. Committees and Committee Reports.~~

[Note: only this heading is being removed]

IV.d.4.iii.e-8.i. Committee Procedures in General.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws]

IV.d.4.iv.e-8.ii. Right of Delegates to Appear before Committees.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws]

IV.d.4.v.e-8.iii. Convening of eCommittees.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws]

IV.d.4.vi.e-8.iv. Committee Reports.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws]

IV.d.4.vii.e-8.v. Procedures for Platform Committee Reports.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws]

IV.d.8.e-9. Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.

[No proposed bylaws changes. Only moving bylaws with existing sections to be renumbered]

Committee Reasoning

The very lengthy section on convention committees is really designed with the state convention in mind. It was more desirable to let counties take either the entire committees section from these bylaws and apply it to their county, or let them do their own thing, rather than try to make a universal rule that (arguably) works really well for the state convention but is either unnecessary or harmful to other conventions.

42. Eliminate Requirement for Secret Ballot

IV.e.5. Voting Procedures.

- i Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in these Rules, the method of voting at all Conventions, and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party may be:
 - (a) Voice vote;
 - (b) Show of hands;
 - (c) Standing division of the house;
 - (d) Written secret ballot; or
 - (e) Roll call vote.
- ii Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method used shall be left to the discretion of the presiding officer, provided, however, that:
 - (a) A division vote must be taken on the request of any qualified participant. Said participant need not have the floor to call for a division vote.
 - (b) A roll call vote must be taken when requested by one-fifth of the participants.
- iii All votes taken shall be counted by the presiding officer and secretary or their designees.
- ~~iv Elections must be held by secret ballot when there is a contested race for any Party office or offices (including delegate and alternate) or for the Party nomination for any public office (including Presidential Elector candidates).~~
- v If a roll call vote is taken, polling shall be by alphabetical call of all delegates registered as attending.
- vi Proxy voting or voting by proxies is prohibited in all conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party.
- vii The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates shall not be permitted at any level of the Convention process.

Committee Reasoning

As the bylaw (iv) now stands, it is an absolute requirement. Nowhere else in the bylaws does it allow a deviation from this requirement even if it is the will of the specific convention or caucus. There are examples of this rule being ignored (probably through ignorance of its existence), which in and of itself is not justification for changing the rule. However, every convention/caucus is to some extent unique and should have the freedom to have a voting process which meets its needs to facilitate an orderly and expeditious conclusion. Eliminating this rule meets this objective. It is expected that conventions/caucuses will have a secret ballot when requested by the delegates.

43. Convention Locations [NC Bundle]

~~IV.e.2. Location of Conventions:~~

- ~~i—All Party Conventions shall be held at places which shall be of easy public access to all participants who have expressed their intention to participate to the appropriate County, District or State Executive Committee at least 75 days before the scheduled date of the convention.~~
- ~~ii—All Party Conventions shall be held in a place that is large enough to accommodate the greater of:
 - ~~A—The number of participants who participated in the same convention two years prior; or~~
 - ~~B—The number who have expressed their intention to participate to the appropriate County, District or State Executive Committee at least 75 days before the scheduled date of the convention.~~~~

Committee Reasoning

Ability to accommodate persons with disabilities is currently covered by Texas Election Code (181.063) and ADA. We also believe any responsible SLEC, Convention Committee, or CEC would make reasonable attempts to meet the needs of those who raise concerns of such needs.

Evaluation of meeting space takes in consideration previous conventions and the type of election year already. Convention locations are almost always selected far beyond 75 days before a convention which is also far before any known participants. Natural logistics eliminate the need for these bylaws.

This provision also is hard to keep up with: we could accidentally by not updating these bylaws end up out of compliance with the ADA or other state or federal law. We really should just ensure that convention location selection is done in accordance with the relevant state and federal laws, and educate the various chairs the best we can.

Therefore, these really just take up space and does more harm than good.

44. Grammar and Numbering Fixes [NC Bundle]

V.b. Permanent Amendments.

These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a State Convention.

The SLEC, by four-fifths (4/5) vote of the entirety of SLEC, may renumber, modify spacing, fix grammatical errors, fix spelling errors, and modify formatting of these rules as long as it does not change wording, substance grammar, or intent in any way. Notification of these changes must be sent to all county affiliates within one (1) a-week of a successful vote.

Committee Reasoning

This change will grant authority to make permanent formatting and grammar fixes to the document. The high vote threshold and oversight requirement should be good enough to ensure this is kept within reason.

45. Eliminate Presumption of Temporary Chair

Under IV.d.5. Order of Business, strike “State Chair” wherever it is found and replace it with “Temporary Chair”.

Current Reference:

IV.d.5. Order of Business.

At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:

- i Call to order by the **State Chair**;
- ii **SLEC** report on the temporary roll;
- iii **State Chair** introduces temporary officers of the Convention and turns over gavel to Temporary Chair if he or she has appointed someone other than himself or herself to act as Temporary Chair;
- iv Opening ceremonies, if any;
- v Report of the Credentials Committee and action on its report to establish the permanent roll;
- vi Nomination and election of permanent officers of the Convention;
- vii Permanent Chair takes the chair;
- viii Report of the Rules Committee and action on its report;
- ix Nomination of candidates for public office;
- x Nomination and election of state Party officers;
- xi Permanent Chair announces clearly to the delegates the place of each regional caucus, then declares a brief recess for such caucuses;
- xii Regional caucuses meet and elect District Representatives;
- xiii Permanent Chair calls Convention back to order;
- xiv Regional caucuses report on election of District Representatives;
- xv Nomination and election (if any) of delegates and alternates to the national convention;
- xvi Report of the Platform Committee and action on its report;
- xvii Nomination and election (if any) of Presidential Elector candidates;
- xviii Other business;
- xix Acceptance speeches (if any) by certain nominees for public office;
- xx Adjournment.

This would also modify Proposal “Order of Business” if it passes.

Committee Reasoning

This is the “if the State Chair is hit by a bus on the way to convention” proposal. It strikes the occurrences of “State Chair” and replaces it with “Temporary Chair”. This handles the case where, in the unfortunate circumstance, the State Chair *were* to get hit by a bus, the convention could move to say a prayer or have a moment of silence and not argue about whether or not the convention could even gavel in.

46. Credential Committee Authority [Terminology Bundle]

IV.d.4.i. Committees Described.

- A A Platform Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Statement of Principles and Platform of the Party;
- B A Rules Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Rules of the Party;
- C A Credentials Committee, which shall establish the temporary roll of the convention, consider and report to the Convention, on the list of County Affiliates that delivered county convention records and recommendations to establish the permanent roll of the convention, and continually update the roll for any changes to qualified participants throughout the convention. ~~for resolution of any challenges to the credentials of delegates to the convention;~~

Committee Reasoning

This updates the Credentials committee to describe it more clearly in how it actually functions along with its ongoing convention responsibilities. It also uses the new “qualified participant” language.

47. Placing an Item on the Agenda

IV.e.7. Petition to Place Item on Agenda.

A petition signed by delegates or alternates with a number of signatures equal to at least fifteen ~~ten~~ percent (15%) of the delegates/qualified participants of attending any Convention shall be sufficient to automatically place any legitimate item of business on the agenda of that Convention for its consideration. The item of business will be placed as the last order of business under the agenda category for which it was written.

Any petition to add business to the agenda shall clearly state the motion and agenda category it shall be placed under. The petition must be signed, have the full name in clear print for each signer, list the county of each signer, and list whether the signed is a delegate or alternate for a signature to be valid.

Committee Reasoning

The common practice has been to place such petitions at the end of the planned business category. It would not be realistic to allow such a small group of people to sign petitions and make a run around normal convention processes. This could be used as a tool to devour convention time and subvert normal processes if interpreted any other way. There should be a way for delegates to raise up an item of business from the floor and this does that and earns it recognition as an item on the agenda to be dealt with by the body.

The signing threshold is being bumped up a little because this makes it clear that alternates may also sign such petitions which theoretically could double the people eligible to sign such petitions.

48. Bylaws Committee Title Change [NC Bundle]

IV.d.4.i. Committees Described.

- A A Platform Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Statement of Principles and Platform of the Party;
- B A Bylaws ~~Rules~~ Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent bylaws ~~Rules~~ of the Party and to the Bylaws of the SLEC;
- C A Credentials Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for resolution of any challenges to the credentials of delegates to the convention;

IV.d.5. Order of Business.

At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:

- viii Report of the Bylaws ~~Rules~~ Committee and action on its report;

Committee Reasoning

This updates the title of the Rules committee to the Bylaws committee which is more appropriate. The “Rules” reference is too often confused. We have LPTexas bylaws and SLEC bylaws and the committee that deals with those should be called a bylaws committee. This also updates the committee to make it clear that it creates proposals for the Bylaws of the SLEC as well.

49. Delegate and Alternate Seating

IV.d.3. Seating of Delegates and Alternates.

- i Delegates shall be seated together by County at the State Convention.
- ii County delegations may select from amongst themselves a Delegation Leader to help coordinate and communicate the status of their county delegation.
- iii Alternates shall be seated in order of precedence to fill any vacancies up to the maximum allotment for the County they represent.
- iv An alternate may temporarily relinquish their right to be seated which allows the next available alternate in precedence order to be seated.
- v A seat vacancy occurs when:
 - A A delegate does not register as attending;
 - B A qualified participant communicates they are temporarily vacating their seat to allow an alternate to take their seat; or
 - C A qualified participant permanently leaves the convention in accordance with IV.e.4.
- vi If an unseated alternate wishes to be recognized as available to be seated, they ~~Nonvoting alternates~~ shall remain in a designated alternate seating area until such time as they are called to fill a vacancy.
- vii The lack of a presence of a token or other identifying mechanism shall not preclude a delegate or alternate from being seated nor prohibit a qualified participant from participating in a convention.

Committee Reasoning

This proposal deals with practical problems that have been seen at prior conventions.

“Delegation leaders” have been leveraged in an informal sense, but people ask the question of if this is an “official” position. This makes it official but optional, and leaves it up to the delegation. It also deals with a corner case where a delegate wishes to give their position to an alternate for a moment, but the next alternate is not actually there, and some could imply that the spot simply can’t be filled. This fills this gap and ensures that the order of alternates is preserved.

It helps the delegations and credentials committee if the alternates are in a well defined place, but only requires that *if they want to be able to take over for a delegate*. If an alternate isn’t interested and simply wants to watch the proceedings they aren’t bound to a particular area.

The last section deals with problems where people may lose their token, badge, or whatever else a convention decided to use to help to identify who is currently able to vote from the floor. Your ability to vote on the floor is determined by who the Credentials Committee is recording is able to vote based on the delegate and alternate lists, not the presence of some physical object. This makes sure that no one can argue that you can’t vote just because you lost your “totem”.

50. Judicial Committee

III.b Judicial Committee

III.b.1. Composition and Quorum

The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven (7) Party members elected at each regular state convention occurring in a non-gubernatorial election year. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the chair of the Judicial Committee from among themselves. Any five (5) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The members of the Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention, or immediately upon appointment if appointed outside of a convention.

III.b.2. Qualifications

In order to qualify to be a member of the Judicial Committee, a person must meet the following:

- i. Is currently not nor have been a member of the SLEC (regardless of voting status) for the previous one (1) year.
- ii. Is not currently a member of any committee of the SLEC.
- iii. Is not currently a member of any committee of the convention of LPTexas.
- iv. Is not currently serving as volunteer staff of LPTexas.
- v. Have been a Voting Member for at least four (4) consecutive years at the time of their election or appointment.

III.b.3. Vacancies

The SLEC and Judicial Committee members shall vote to appoint new members if vacancies occur, and such appointees may serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-gubernatorial convention. Such appointments must obtain two-thirds (2/3) of all those eligible to vote.

III.b.4. Jurisdiction.

The Judicial Committee review of a Party action shall be limited to the consistency of that action against the Bylaws and other governing documents of the Party.

The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:

- i. Censuring a Voting Member
- ii. Removal of a member of the SLEC
- iii. Qualification of State Executive Committee Members (III.a.3.)
- iv. Failure to hold a convention (III.b.4.)
- v. County governance (III.b.1.)

III.b.5. Organization and Process.

The Judicial Committee shall elect a Chair, who shall receive all appeals and petitions and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the Judicial Committee. When a hearing is requested, the Chair shall decide to accept or reject the appeal or petition. If the Chair accepts the appeal or petition, the Chair shall set a hearing date within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If the appeal or petition is rejected, the Chair shall notify the requestor and the SLEC within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If the Chair has not accepted or rejected the appeal or petition within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter at hand.

The Judicial Committee shall provide at least ten (10) days notice to each of the parties to a hearing, unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Committee and the participants. The Judicial Committee shall hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of receiving a request, unless otherwise specified. All parties to a hearing shall have the right to present their case before the Committee.

The Judicial Committee shall provide a written ruling within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the hearing to all participants and SLEC. The minutes of all Judicial Committee proceedings shall be reported to the SLEC at the next normal meeting of the SLEC. In the event that the Judicial Committee fails to issue a written ruling within the timeframe required, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter at hand.

(modifying agenda)

V.d.5. Order of Business.

xv Nomination and election of Judicial Committee;

(Current item xv becomes xvi and renumber subsequent articles.)

Committee Reasoning

The committee took a long look at this proposal before adopting it: Proponents of a Judicial Committee will point out that it is a body that specifically handles appeals of the decisions of the Party, and in many cases it

appears that the “common usage” of the procedure would be either to stop some action deemed as corrupt, but mainly to deal with cases where an Executive Committee has acted outside of its bylaws unintentionally, and thus the Judicial Committee’s very specialized focus on bylaws and parliamentary procedure.

That being said, Judicial Committees are **not** independent judiciaries, but instead an alternate political entity. The committee members have seen Judicial Committee decisions “go rogue” almost as much as they have seen them go well (and different members will have different opinions on *which* ones were which).

This Rules Committee has structured the Judicial Committee proposal to try and formulate the best functioning body that can be constructed, if the convention desires a Judicial Committee at all. The key elements that we would like to point out are:

- The committee has an incredibly onerous eligibility requirement: each member must have been a reasonably tenured member of the party, but must have maintained an arms length distance from any party action that it may have to adjudicate.
- The subject matter the Committee is allowed to consider is extremely limited in scope. Only the most serious of Party actions can be reviewed, mainly dealing with the removal or censure of members, or disaffiliation of counties. The Judicial Committee can’t be used as simply a secondary layer of an Executive Committee, keeping LPTexas in chaos as every decision of SLEC is nitpicked over.

To address a potential argument against our implementation, the committee did consider the possibility that a convention or SLEC may not be able to locate a minimum of 5 Voting Members that qualify to serve on the Judicial Committee. We accept this and the committee asserts that it is preferable for a decision of the Party to not be appealable if there aren’t enough members in the Judicial Committee that can make these incredibly tough and considered decisions. To do otherwise would only further push the Judicial Committee into being just another purely political body, and thus really redundant: If you have one bickering political body, what’s the purpose in adding a second?

It’s also important to note that the limited scope of the Judicial Committee is almost always on matters that require a supermajority of SLEC to pass in the first place, so a majority of a 7 member body should only be able to override the decision of such a supermajority with incredibly good cause.

51. Electronic Voting (SLEC bylaws)

V. Electronic Voting.

- 1) The SLEC may request to vote on an issue by online balloting, email, or online forums outside of a meeting if twenty percent (20%) of current members of the body request a vote by forum or email. The issue of the request to vote must be distinct and clear to all joining the call to vote.
- 2) The chair shall clearly present the issue as a motion to be voted upon ~~by forum or email~~. If this does not occur within one week after the request to vote the vote on this issue shall not be taken up unless another request to vote is started.
- 3) At least forty eight (48) hours shall be given after the motion is given before a final tally may be counted. If enough yea votes of all current members to require passage have not been submitted within ninety six (96) hours the motion shall be considered failed.

- 4) If the method of casting votes was hidden then all members along with the name of each member and his or her vote shall be shown along with the final result.

Committee Reasoning

This changes the threshold from 10% to 20% so that the triggering threshold isn't so low that a vote gets called before many members have even had a chance to be aware a vote is being called. Someone may have input that discourages others from joining a call to vote and a very low threshold works against such time to bring up concerns before a vote starts.

This also makes the language a little more generic so as to not limit it to only forum or email. OpaVote for instance could be clearly used as an "electronic vote".

52. Purposes [NC Bundle]

II.d. Purposes.

The purpose for which this Party is organized is to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Party's Statement of Principles by:

- 1 Nominating and supporting Libertarian candidates for public office ~~the United States Congress and for state and local offices in Texas~~;
- 2 Entering into political information activities;
- 3 Engaging the Texas Legislature to move state law in alignment with the Party's Statement of Principles and platform;
- 4 Establishing and supporting county Libertarian county affiliates across the state;
- 5 Building Party infrastructure, staff, and support systems as needed to fulfill these purposes; and
- 6 Affiliating with the national Libertarian Party.

Committee Reasoning

This updates the purposes section to match more closely with how the party has operated, and simplifies language.

53. Removal of District Language for County Convention [NC Bundle]

IV.e.3. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions.

- i All delegates at any convention shall be eligible to vote on all matters before the floor of that Convention, except for ~~district caucuses at County Conventions and~~ regional caucuses at State Conventions.

Committee Reasoning

The existing language is confusing because there are no district caucuses at county conventions. If the original intent was to limit who can vote in a district at a county convention it may be limiting in a way that could leave no voters and it currently conflicts with other bylaws dealing with districts IV.b.6. If a County wishes to have district caucuses at a county convention, perhaps to elect members of a CEC, then that is a county issue and should be addressed in their bylaws, not the bylaws of LPTexas.

54. Minor Wording Fix [NC Bundle]

III.a.1. Composition.

The SLEC of the Party shall be composed of:

- i A Chair;
- ii A Vice Chair;
- iii A Secretary;
- iv A Treasurer;
- v District Representatives from State Senatorial Districts;
- vi Member(s) of the National Committee representing Texas *ex officio* with voice but no vote.

Committee Reasoning

Minor update for consistent language use of “District Representative”.

55. Slate Nominations

****NOTE THIS IS IN THE ELECTIONS PROPOSAL (26)****

This motion shall only be presented if the Elections proposal fails.

IV.e.10.ii. Nominating Procedures.

- A All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made from the floor and no nominations by committee shall be permitted.
- ~~B All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made separately and not as a slate.~~
- C The motion to close nominations shall require a two-thirds vote, and such motion shall not be in order until a reasonable time has passed.
- D Nominations of candidates for public office at the State level may be made only at the State Convention held in the year of the election for which the nominations are made.

Committee Reasoning

This only deals with nominations for some reason. A slate election is far worse than a slate nomination so the focus here is odd. This is not needed however because this is prohibited in Robert's, and should be a suspendable rule if desired by a convention. It's actually quite common, especially at larger county conventions, for the convention to “auto-nominate” all the county delegates to be state or district delegate

nominees. This practice is harmless and a time-saver so long as the convention agrees, as it's the actual election that matters more.

56. National Delegation Authority

IV.d.9.iv. Finality of Delegate Selection.

~~Neither the delegation nor the delegation chair shall have the power to add or remove delegates or alternates.~~

Upon the petitioning of ten (10) percent of the state delegation to national, the delegation may remove a delegate or alternate by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of all the state delegates and alternates to national registered as attending, but shall have no authority to add delegates or alternates.

Committee Reasoning

This issue arose at the last national convention. Someone was acting very poorly and even wasting time of the entire convention by being rude. A moderator tried to remove them but it was explained to them that there is absolutely nothing the Texas delegation could do about this person regardless of how they behaved.

3/4 of all the delegates is pretty high and trying to enact such a vote while a convention is going on will also be a burden that helps to ward off abuse. This would only be used in extreme cases where someone made the Texas delegation look bad or interrupted the convention. The entire convention body could likely do something to remove such a person, but this proposal allows the LPTexas delegation to take care of its own problems.

The convention body selects these delegates with trust to represent LPTexas and should also entrust them to deal with problematic people if and when it happens.

57. National Delegate Language Fixes [NC Bundle]

IV.d.9. Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Conventions.

IV.d.9.i. Number of Delegates.

The total number of delegates to the national convention shall be that number assigned by the National Executive Committee in their call to the Convention.

IV.d.9.ii. National Alternates for National Delegates.

At the national convention alternates shall serve in the same order of precedence as their vote ranking in the absence of delegates, except as may be provided otherwise by the rules of the national Party.

IV.d.9.iii. Selection by State Executive Committee.

- A If national party rules should require election of delegates to a national convention at a time when it would not be possible for a state convention to do so, such delegates and alternates shall be chosen by an open meeting of the SLEC.

- B If reasonably possible, at least 60 days prior public notice of this meeting shall be given including publication in a state Party newsletter or other form of written notice.
- C Any Voting Member may appear before the SLEC at the ~~is~~ meeting for a reasonable time to present arguments for the election of himself or herself or any other Voting Member to be a delegate or alternate.

Committee Reasoning

This proposal makes the language consistent as the LPTexas delegation is made up of both delegates and alternates, and we should explicitly call this out in the bylaws.

58. Hybrid Meetings (SLEC Bylaws)

V. Hybrid Meetings

- 1) Hybrid meetings shall meet the same requirements as prescribed in Sections I Meetings of the State Executive Committee, II Quorum, and IV Electronic Meetings of this document.
- 2) Notice of the meeting being a Hybrid meeting shall be given in the same notice as that meets the requirements for Section I.5 Meetings of the State Executive Committee.
- 3) Connection details to the remote portion of the meeting shall be given in the notice to members in accordance with the meeting notice requirements set forth in IV.2 Electronic Meetings.

Committee Reasoning

In the alternate reality that was 2020, hybrid meetings became a necessity. We can't predict the next fork in reality, but at least we can have a foundation for this to be invoked if necessary.

59. Vice Chair Duties

III.a.5. Duties.

- i The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party.
- ii The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so; ~~and~~ shall assist the Chair, and shall be considered to represent any and all districts that do not have a District Representative.
- iii The Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall conduct mail balloting; shall give all notices required by these rules; shall maintain and certify the official copies of the Rules and Platform; shall maintain a roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of the SLEC, of County Chairs and of candidates for the Party's nomination for public office; shall cause the minutes or transcripts of meetings of the SLEC to be furnished to the members of the SLEC as specified in these rules; and perform such other duties as the Chair directs.
- iv The Treasurer shall maintain Party bank accounts and other financial assets, shall ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party, shall issue financial statements to the SLEC at

least quarterly, shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these rules and state or federal law.

- v The District Representatives shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
- vi All members of the SLEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these Rules, or assigned by the Chair or the SLEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal or state law, or by action of the SLEC or by these rules.

Committee Reasoning

There have been a number of Voting Members in the past that have no SD representation. These members feel orphaned as they don't have a person who updates them on state matters or is a point of contact to whom they can direct questions or requests. This makes the Vice Chair the person who is their *de facto* representative.

60. Online/Hybrid Conventions

III.d.2. Powers of the State Executive Committee.

- i In compliance with these Rules and the directives of Conventions, the SLEC of the Party shall carry on the activities of the Party at its level between Conventions, and shall have the control and management of all Party affairs, properties, and funds at its level.
- ii The Chair of the SLEC, subject to the approval of that Committee, or the SLEC itself, may appoint, elect or employ any such officers and assistants as may be deemed necessary to assist the Committee in its function and in making arrangements for Conventions at that level.
- iii The SLEC shall decide whether to hold a Primary Election, and make appropriate notification thereof.
- iv The SLEC, at any time, may move the convention from a physical location to an online location, for good cause in an emergency situation which threatens the possibility of an in-person state convention, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire SLEC ~~body~~.
- v SLEC may establish a state convention as an all online or combined in-person and online participant convention, hereinafter referred to as hybrid convention, by a two-thirds (2/3) of the entire SLEC, but the vote must take place at least sixty (60) days before the Precinct conventions.
- vi The State Executive Committee may reject a county's bylaws in their entirety for cause. The county must be notified of the time and place of a vote to reject county bylaws at least 20 days before a vote can be taken. A designated representative from the county will be given speaking privileges during any debate on the issue.

Committee Reasoning

Continuing the theme of “2020 alternate reality”, sometimes in crazy times even conventions need to be hybrid. This establishes a process for this, including a high vote threshold to encourage its use *only when necessary* and a notice period.

61. Alphabetical Roll Call Requirement [NC Bundle]

IV.e.5. Voting Procedures.

~~v — If a roll call vote is taken, polling shall be by alphabetical call of all delegates registered as attending.~~

Committee Reasoning

While this likely existed as a way to avoid vote signaling, the language is unclear on first or last name. It also has been routinely ignored, indicating that this is really addressing a hypothetical problem and not one that really exists. If vote signaling actually becomes a real issue, the convention can take care of the problem right then and there and doesn't need a bylaw provision to do so.

62. Moving General Conventions Up

IV.a.e. General Rules Governing Party Conventions

Subsequent sections will be renumbered accordingly.

Committee Reasoning

Because of how thick and wordy the convention section is, especially county and district chairs, when convention season rolls around, will pull up the bylaws and work through it section by section to make sure they are conducting their convention properly. For the more numerous county and district conventions, it becomes awkward to bounce between the section specifically governing that convention and the general rules that are at the bottom of the section. This brings the general section to the top so it can more easily be referenced.

63. SLEC Donation Requirement

III.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.

- i All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
- ii All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be residents of the region or political subdivision they represent, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of such region or political subdivision shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
- iii No person shall hold more than one membership on the SLEC at the same time.

- iv No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without having submitted an application to the Party Secretary showing interest in filling the position.
- v No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing the most recent Party Platform, noting any disagreements with planks, and then submitting it to the state Party Secretary.
- vi All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must either donate, or alternatively have a donation attributed to them from other donors, a combined total of no less than \$120 each calendar year in order to remain a member of the SLEC.

Committee Reasoning

This requires the very weighty party officer and SLEC positions to have to be able to at a bare minimum have enough internal party support to be able to give \$120 per year to the party. If an officer can't get that from hundreds of voting members or even millions of registered voters or other contributors, are they just an empty suit? If you think about it, if all the officers did this, it would literally only require that 480 people from just about *anywhere* to donate \$1.50 (gotta pay the credit card processors.....) . Even if you have made a vow of poverty, you can be "sponsored".

The Rules Committee
John Wilford (Chair) - Denton
Donavan Pantke - Tarrant
Teresa Rushing - Tarrant
Andrew Amelang - Washington
Paul Darr - Bexar
Arthur Thomas - Bexar
Mike Dooling - Dallas