

The Libertarian Party of Texas

Bylaws of SLEC - April 13, 2024

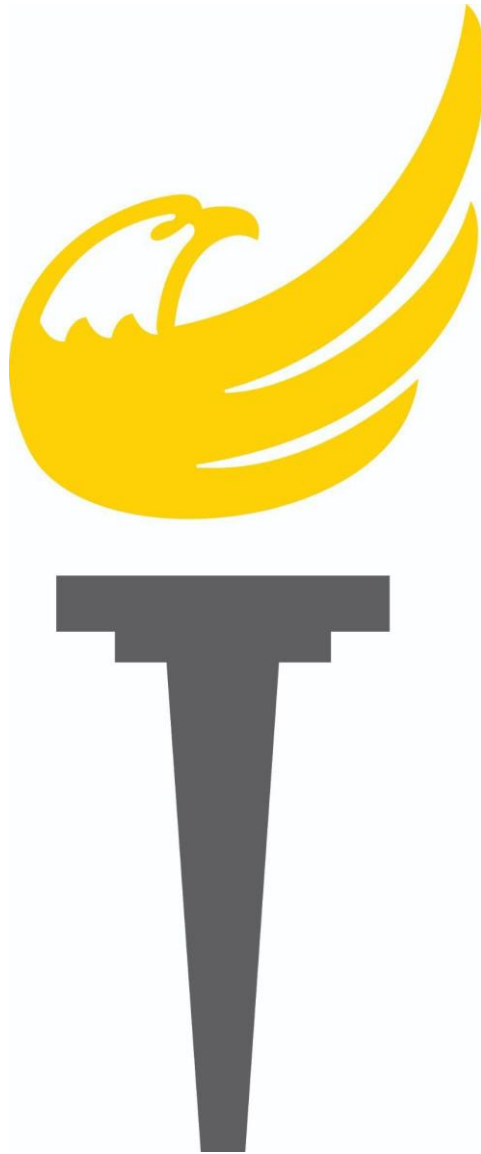


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I. Meetings of the State Executive Committee.

- A. 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:
 - 1. these rules;
 - 2. the action of the SLEC itself;
 - 3. the call of its Chair; or
 - 4. the action of the Convention which elected it.
- B. The SLEC shall be required to meet upon the written request of one-third or more of its members.
- C. 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.
- D. All meetings of the SLEC of the Party, except for executive sessions, shall be open to attendance by the public and the press.
- E. 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.
- F. No in person meetings of the SLEC shall be held outside the State of Texas.
- G. The agenda of the initial meeting of the SLEC after the State Convention shall be:
 - 1. Roll call
 - 2. Presentation of state and SLEC bylaws with changes noted
 - 3. Presentation and review of state policies
 - 4. Introduction to SLEC membership, communication tools, and systems
 - 5. Introduction of any established staff and staff structure
 - 6. Oath and signing agreements in accordance with III.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements
 - 7. Reviewing the SLEC mission statement
 - 8. Budget and expenditure authorizations, if needed
 - 9. New business; to consider new business each item requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote
- H. The initial meeting shall not adjourn sine die without completing all items outlined in the agenda.

II. Quorum

Except as specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, a majority of the membership, excluding vacancies, shall be the quorum at all meetings of the SLEC.

III. Mail Voting.

- A. The SLEC may, without meeting together, transact business by mail, by voting on questions submitted to them by or with the approval of the Chair or one-third or more of the SLEC members.
- B. Fifteen days shall be allowed for the return of the ballots by mail to the Secretary. If at the end of fifteen days, a majority of the SLEC have not returned their ballots, the measure shall be considered defeated; when a majority of the ballots are returned within fifteen days, a majority of the ballots returned shall be sufficient for passage unless a higher vote is required by these Rules.
- C. The Secretary must preserve all mail ballots received until their disposition is decided at the next meeting of the SLEC.

- D. All mail votes by the SLEC shall be confirmed at the next SLEC meeting.

IV. Electronic Meetings.

- A. The SLEC may, without meeting together in person, remotely transact business by electronic means.
- B. Notice of the time of all remote meetings shall be given to all members of the SLEC not less than 72 hours prior to each meeting with a set agenda, and regular meeting notice requirement for an open agenda.
- C. All remote meetings should be technologically inclusive of all SLEC members that have given their desire to participate in such meetings.
- D. The SLEC may, by majority vote of all members, restrict which type of remote meetings may be held.

V. Electronic Voting.

- A. The SLEC may request to vote on an issue by email or online forums outside of a meeting if 10% of current members of the body request a vote by forum or email.
- B. The chair shall present the issue as a motion to be voted upon by forum or email within one week after the request to vote.
- C. At least 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 96 hours the motion shall be considered failed.
- D. 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.

VI. Approval of Expenditures.

- A. The SLEC shall establish a categorized budget including expected revenues and expenses.
- B. All budgets and all authorization of expenditures shall require a majority vote of the SLEC.
- C. Disbursement of all party funds shall require the approval of either the Treasurer or the Chair.
- D. The SLEC shall not take loans nor incur credit card debt.
- E. 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.

VII. Voting in Meetings.

- A. The method of voting used shall be left to the discretion of the Chair unless the SLEC shall vote otherwise.
- B. A division vote must be taken on the request of any member of the SLEC, said member not needing to have the floor to make such request.
- C. One fifth of the membership of the SLEC shall be sufficient to order a roll call vote.
- D. All votes taken by the SLEC or a sub-committee shall be counted by the chair and secretary of the particular committee or their designees.
- E. The use of proxies and proxy voting is prohibited at all meetings of all Executive Committees at any level.
- F. For all votes electing someone for any party position, None of the Above or an equivalent must be one of the choices. Any election by the SLEC without the ability to elect none of the candidates is void.

VIII. Executive Session in Meetings.

- A. The SLEC may enter into an executive session for cause. The motion to enter into executive session must state the cause. The following are the only valid causes to enter into an executive session:
 - 1. Political Strategy,
 - 2. Legal Strategy,
 - 3. Sensitive donor or member information,
 - 4. Human Resources related matters for staff or volunteers.
- B. No motions of the SLEC may be made in executive session except:
 - 1. A motion to leave the executive session,
 - 2. A motion to recess,
 - 3. A motion to appeal the ruling of the chair and only when that ruling was made in executive session,
 - 4. A motion to suspend the rules in order to consider a motion not listed above.
 - a) A motion made in an executive session under a suspension of the rules must be announced after the committee leaves the executive session. The content of the motion does not need to be announced if it would in any way compromise the confidentiality of the cause of the executive session but an announcement that a motion was made in the executive session must be recorded and made public.
 - b) No motions made in an executive session have a continuing effect outside of the executive session until they are publicly announced and recorded. This requirement can be fulfilled with a verbal announcement at a SLEC meeting outside of the executive session and a note in the minutes.
 - c) An announcement of a motion to expend funds must include the amount to be expended though the reason need not be announced and the line item on any budgetary reports can just list the announced cause for the executive session.
- C. All members of the SLEC must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) that at a minimum covers:
 - 1. The rules for what information cannot be disclosed about an executive session,
 - 2. How long members are barred from disclosing information about an executive session,
 - 3. and Under what circumstances a member is permitted to disclose information from an executive session.
- D. Any member that has not signed an NDA is not eligible to participate in executive sessions in any way that is not allowed by the general public. Members who cannot participate in executive sessions are still counted against voting thresholds that require a portion of the entire membership of the SLEC and are considered to have abstained.

IX. Forums.

- A. The SLEC shall have access to a Public Forum for the purposes of debating and transacting business that is covered under Electronic Voting. The Public Forum shall be viewable by the public.
- B. The SLEC shall have access to a Private Forum for the purpose of debating and transacting business that is covered under Electronic Voting and would be eligible to be transacted in an executive session in a meeting.
 - 1. Any new thread made in the Private Forum must be accompanied by a post made within one hour in the Public Forum to notify the membership that a new post was made and under what cause of executive session it was made. It is the duty of the member starting

the private thread to make the post in the Public Forum. If no post is made in the Public Forum within one hour discussion on that topic must stop until a public post is made. If the member refuses or fails to make any public post about the private thread it is the job of the Secretary or an appointee of the Secretary to make a post in the Public Forum within 48 hours and it is the job of the Chair or an appointee of the Chair to lock down the thread in the Private Forum as soon as possible after the initial hour.

2. The following two methods may be used to move something from the Private Forum to the Public Forum.
 - a) By ruling of the Chair using the following process:
 - (1) Any member may ask the chair for an official ruling on the applicability of the thread to the cause for an executive session stated or the chair may simply make a ruling if they deem it necessary.
 - (2) The chair will issue a ruling within 48 hours of a request and wait an additional 48 hours for any appeals to their ruling.
 - (3) If no appeals are received the ruling of the chair is abided by.
 - (4) If an appeal is received and supported by the number of members which would be normally required to trigger a forum vote then a vote in the private section of the forum takes place to uphold the ruling of the chair under otherwise normal forum vote procedures and timelines.
 - (5) If multiple appeals reach the requirements for a vote they will be handled in separate votes which may be run in parallel.
 - (6) Additional appeals may not be issued after the initial 48-hour window.
 - (7) After the ruling(s) of the chair have been disposed of the prevailing side's ruling is abided by. In the case of multiple appeals, only one cause for an executive session needs to be applicable for the thread to remain in the Private Forum though a public post shall be made in the Public Forum to update the cause(s).
 - b) By a motion of the body to move an item from the Private Forum to the Public Forum. The form of the motion shall be "move to relocate the thread posted on [Insert date, hour, and minute of start of thread] by [insert member's name or Title] from the Private Forum to the Public Forum." Such a motion shall require a 2/3rds vote, the vote of a majority of the entire membership, or a majority vote if previous notice has been given. Any such motion made on the Public Forum is considered to have previous notice but is subject to any rules or threshold minimums on Electronic Voting.
3. Anything in the Private Forum is covered under executive session rules until it is moved to the Public Forum. This status remains in effect even when a ruling or appeal of a ruling is pending.
4. No motions of the SLEC may be made in the Private Forum unless a motion to suspend the rules in order to consider a motion is first made or the motion itself is moved as a suspension of the rules requiring a 2/3rds vote.
 - a) A motion made in the Private Forum under a suspension of the rules must be announced in the Public Forum. The content of the motion does not need to be announced if it would in any way compromise the confidentiality of the subject of the Private Forum but an announcement that a motion was made in the Private Forum must be recorded and made public.

- b) No motions made in the Private Forum have an effect until they are publicly announced and recorded. This requirement can be fulfilled with a post in the Public Forum.
 - c) An announcement of a motion to expend funds must include the amount to be expended though the reason need not be announced and the line item on any budgetary reports can just list the announced cause for the Private Forum thread.
- 5. All members of the SLEC must sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) that at a minimum covers:
 - a) The rules for what information cannot be disclosed about the Private Forum,
 - b) How long members are barred from disclosing information about the Private Forum,
 - c) and Under what circumstances a member is permitted to disclose information from the Private Forum.
- 6. Any member that has not signed an NDA is not eligible to participate in the Private Forum in any way that is not allowed by the general public. Members who cannot participate in the Private Forum are still counted against voting thresholds that require a portion of the entire membership of the SLEC, except for those listed in Electronic Voting, and are considered to have abstained.
- 7. For thresholds listed in Electronic Voting that require a portion of the entire membership of the SLEC the member is not counted as part of the membership of SLEC.

X. Committees of the Executive Committee.

- A. The SLEC may establish such committees as it deems appropriate to assist it in carrying out its non-statutory duties, and may appoint to such committees persons who are not members of the SLEC.
- B. No action of a subcommittee of or of any standing committee created by the SLEC shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the SLEC at its subsequent meetings.

XI. Conflicts of Interest

- A. Party officers and SLEC representatives shall disclose any potential or known conflicts of interest as soon as they arise to the Secretary through the Conflict of Interest disclosure document.
- B. Party officers and SLEC representatives shall recuse themselves from any vote that presents a potential or known conflict of interest.
- C. Violation of this section shall be considered cause for removal in accordance with procedures outlined in the LPTexas Bylaws. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exclude other reasons as being proper cause for removal.

Revision History:

Modified on	Event	Updated by
04/14/2018	State Convention (Rules Committee Proposal) - Created	Arthur Thomas IV - 5/25/2018
08/05/2019	Missing 4 words in Section VII - Voting in meetings / 1	Arthur Thomas IV - 8/5/2019
08/08/2020	Changes from 2020 state convention	Arthur Thomas IV - 8/8/2020
04/10/2022	Changes from 2022 State Convention incorporated	Anastasia Wilford - 05/29/2022
07/02/2022	Incorporated changes from SLEC meeting on Executive Session & Forums	Anastasia Wilford - 07/05/2022
11/19/2022	Incorporated changes from SLEC meeting on Conflicts of Interest	Anastasia Wilford - 01/03/2023
04/13/2024	Changes from 2024 State Convention	Christy Ford 05/07/2024