

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATE COMMITTEE
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026
ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP AND PORCUPINE APP**

MEMBERS PRESENT (26)

Mark N. Axinn (JD1)
Paul M. Grindle (JD2)
Gary S. Popkin (JD2)
Justin N. Carman (JD3)
Evan D. Lebrecht (JD3)
Daniel J. Castello (JD5)
Erinn Rose Leatherman (JD5)
Mark S. Braiman (JD6)
Charles E. Dorgan (JD6)
Samuel J. Hordeski (JD6)
Steven G. Becker (JD7)
Sean C. Phelan (JD7)
Andrew M. Kolstee (JD8)
Duane J. Whitmer (JD8)
Pietro S. Geraci (JD9)
Catrina Rocco (JD9)
William K. Schmidt (JD9)
Jonathan H. Gunther (JD10)

Vincent J. O'Neill (JD10)
Christian L. Padgett (JD10)
Robert E. Schuon (JD10)
Irwin Mark Weinblatt (JD11)
Susan B. Overeem-Cummings (JD13)
David B. "Chance" Haywood (ex-officio)
Richard F. Purtell (ex-officio)
Christopher Skelly (ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT (6)

Morry C. Davis (JD1)
James B. Fitch (JD5)
Justin M. Pelletier (JD7)
Maura E. Botsford (JD8)
Wendi E. Szabo (JD8)
Blay Tarnoff (JD10)

OBSERVERS (3)

Christopher M. Olenski, Broome County
Michael J. Dowden, Nassau County Treasurer
Patrick Ford, LNC Region 6 Representative

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:08 p.m. by Duane Whitmer, Chair.

Secretary Andrew Kolstee conducted a roll. Nineteen (19) of thirty-two (32) voting members of the State Committee present at the time of the roll call. Mark Axinn, Charles Dorgan, Pietro Geraci, Jonathan Gunther, Susan Overeem-Cummings, Gary Popkin, and William Schmidt later entered the meeting. The Secretary determined that a quorum was always present during the meeting.

Chair Duane Whitmer issued opening remarks.

The **agenda (Exhibit 1)** was adopted without objection.

Mark Braiman withdrew his candidacy as the Libertarian Party nominee for Lt. Governor and his **withdrawal was accepted** without objection.

Motion by Robert Schuon to **rescind the nomination of Larry Sharpe as the Libertarian Party nominee for Governor of New York** was seconded by Daniel Castello. Schuon also included the following statement in the motion:

Whereas, due to the current status of our endorsed candidate failing to mount a primary challenge to the Republican Party candidate for Governor in 2026, and

that candidate Larry Sharpe has neither acknowledged nor brought other candidates for the ticket for Governor of New York 2026, while openly talking about the possibility of a non-endorsed Lieutenant Governor candidate Shannon Joy without contacting the Libertarian Party of New York for endorsement and update of the ticket, and the fact that petitioning starts on or about April 15, 2026, and we have no petitions available to sign, nor plans for any, I move that the Libertarian Party of New York rescind the endorsement of Larry Sharpe as candidate for Governor of New York in 2026. Whether the party will endorse a slate for Governor or not yet to be decided going forward.

The motion to **rescind the nomination of Larry Sharpe as the Libertarian Party nominee for Governor of New York** passed 13-9-3 (see **Appendix 1A** for the question on Porcupine):

VOTES IN FAVOR (13)

Justin Carman
Daniel Castello
Charles Dorgan
Pietro Geraci
Chance Haywood
Andrew Kolstee
Evan Lebrecht
Rose Leatherman
Richard Purtell

Catrina Rocco
Robert Schuon
Christopher Skelly
Duane Whitmer
VOTES AGAINST (9)
Mark Axinn
Steven Becker
Paul Grindle
Samuel Hordeski
Susan Overeem-Cummings

Christian Padgett
Gary Popkin¹
William Schmidt
Mark Weinblatt
ABSTENTIONS (3)
Mark Braiman
Jonathan Gunther
Sean Phelan
DID NOT VOTE (1)
Vincent O'Neill

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **suspend the Rules to amend the agenda to allow the filling of vacancies in Judicial District 11** was seconded by Mark Axinn, debated, and placed on the table.

The Chair opened nominations for the Elections Oversight Committee. No candidates were nominated.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **accept the resignation of Anna Ostrowski as an Alternate Delegate to the Libertarian National Convention** was seconded by Mark Axinn and passed without objection.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **postpone indefinitely the nomination of statewide candidates and to endorse “None of the Above” for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed without objection.

¹ In the Porcupine question, Gary Popkin was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally against the motion.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Kolstee Amendment 2 (Exhibit 2)** was seconded by Robert Schuon and passed without objection. Motion by Andrew Kolstee to **amend Proposal 1 of the Rules Committee report to adopt Kolstee Amendment 1 (Exhibit 2)** was seconded by Mark Braiman and passed without objection.

Motion by Andrew Kolstee on behalf of the Rules Committee to **amend the Rules of the Libertarian Party to adopt Proposal 1 (Exhibit 2) as amended** was debated and failed 5-14-4 (see **Appendix 1B** for the question on Porcupine):

VOTES IN FAVOR (5)

Mark Braiman
Charles Dorgan
Andrew Kolstee
Sean Phelan
Richard Purtell

VOTES AGAINST (14)

Mark Axinn
Steven Becker
Daniel Castello
Pietro Geraci

Jonathan Gunther
Chance Haywood
Rose Leatherman
Susan Overeem-Cummings
Gary Popkin²
Catrina Rocco
Robert Schuon
Christopher Skelly
Mark Weinblatt
Christian Padgett

ABSTENTIONS (4)

Justin Carman
Samuel Hordeski
William Schmidt
Duane Whitmer

DID NOT VOTE (3)

Paul Grindle
Evan Lebrecht
Vincent O'Neill

Motion by Andrew Kolstee **that the Libertarian Party of New York enter into a Libertarian National Committee Region agreement with Pennsylvania and New Jersey and direct the Chair to sign the region agreement (Exhibit 3)** was seconded by Christopher Skelly and debated. Motion by Mark Weinblatt to **amend the regional agreement and move the word “are” as suggested by Gary Popkin** was seconded by Christopher Skelly and passed without objection. The original motion **that the Libertarian Party of New York enter into a Libertarian National Committee Region agreement with Pennsylvania and New Jersey and direct the Chair to sign the region agreement (Exhibit 3)** passed 17-3-2 (see **Appendix 1C** for the question on Porcupine):

VOTES IN FAVOR (17)

Mark Axinn
Steven Becker
Mark Braiman
Daniel Castello
Charles Dorgan
Pietro Geraci
Jonathan Gunther
Chance Haywood
Samuel Hordeski

Andrew Kolstee
Rose Leatherman
Christian Padgett
Gary Popkin
Richard Purtell
Robert Schuon
Christopher Skelly
Mark Weinblatt
VOTES AGAINST (3)
Catrina Rocco

William Schmidt
Duane Whitmer
ABSTENTIONS (2)

Justin Carman
Sean Phelan
DID NOT VOTE (4)

Paul Grindle
Evan Lebrecht
Vincent O'Neill
Susan Overeem-Cummings

² In the Porcupine question, Gary Popkin was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties; he voted verbally against the motion.

Motion by Mark Axinn to **adjourn** passed without objection.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:34 p.m.

Andrew M. Kolstee
Secretary

Exhibit 1

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK AGENDA OF THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

6:00 P.M. Call to Order (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

6:05 P.M. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum (Andrew Kolstee, Secretary)

6:10 P.M. Opening Remarks (Duane Whitmer, Chair)

6:15 P.M. Adoption of Agenda

6:20 P.M. Nomination of Candidates for Public Office

Changes and Potential Changes to Nominations

Prior to the meeting, Mark Braiman withdrew his nomination for Lt. Governor.

Prior to the meeting, notice was submitted by a member of the State Committee for an intended motion to rescind the nomination of Larry Sharpe for Governor.

Nominations to Fill Vacancies in Statewide Offices

Attorney General
Comptroller

7:00 P.M. Filling of Vacancies on the Elections Oversight Committee

7:20 P.M. Libertarian National Convention Delegation Changes

Consideration to accept the resignation of Anna Ostrowski as Alternate Delegate.

7:30 P.M. Rules Committee Report (Andrew Kolstee)

See proposed amendments [here](#).

8:00 P.M. Old business

8:30 P.M. New business

LNC Regional agreement between New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. See [here](#).

9:00 P.M. Adjournment

Exhibit 2 (page 1 of 4)

REPORT OF THE RULES COMMITTEE FOR THE STATE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2026

PROPOSAL 1 (H). Change composition of State Committee during times without ballot access to be one per County Affiliate plus five At-large. Adds provisions for electing Members-At-Large by including all LPNY members to vote.

~~6.4.~~ 6.3. **ELECTION THROUGH THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS; STATE COMMITTEE WHEN RECOGNIZED UNDER ELECTION LAW.**

6.3.1. **COMPOSITION.** The State Committee shall be composed of members apportioned by Judicial District. Each Judicial District shall be entitled to one (1) voting member, plus:

~~6.3.1. **UNIT OF REPRESENTATION.** The unit of representation for the State Committee shall be the New York State Judicial District.~~

~~6.3.2. **REPRESENTATION.** Each Judicial District shall be entitled to one (1) voting member on the State Committee plus each of the following, except that the maximum number of State Committee members from a Judicial District shall be twelve (12) voting members. The party calls shall be filed in accordance with Election Law.~~

6.3.~~2~~.1.1. One (1) additional voting member for every six hundred (600) LPNY Members in the district, ~~up to a maximum of five (5) members.~~ The number of LPNY Members in each district shall be based on data obtained by the Secretary between January 1 and January 15 directly preceding the election of a State Committee.

6.3.~~2~~.1.2. One (1) additional voting member for every four thousand (4,000) votes for the most recent Libertarian Party candidate for Governor in the district, ~~up to a maximum of five (5) members.~~

6.3.2. **ELECTION.** Members of the State Committee shall be elected by enrolled Libertarians at the primary elections in even-numbered years in accordance with Election Law. Members must reside in the Judicial District that they represent and shall be elected At-Large within that Judicial District. Party calls shall be filed in accordance with Election Law. [moved from above]

Exhibit 2 (page 2 of 4)

~~6.5:~~ 6.4. **ELECTION THROUGH THE LPNY: STATE COMMITTEE WHEN NOT RECOGNIZED UNDER ELECTION LAW.** If at any time the LPNY is not eligible to elect a new State Committee ~~at a primary election~~ under Election Law, the State Committee shall ~~be elected by the County Affiliates~~ consist of one (1) Representative appointed by each Local Affiliate and five (5) Members-At-Large.

~~6.5:~~4.1. **ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.** An Elections Oversight Committee (hereinafter “EOC”) shall be constituted to oversee the election of a State Committee in accordance with this section.

~~6.5.1.1. SELECTION:~~ The ~~Elections Oversight Committee~~ EOC shall be elected at a meeting of the full State Committee and shall consist of ~~the Chair of the State Committee and one (1) representative from each of thirteen (13) Judicial Districts~~ no more than nine (9) members of the State Committee. ~~A quorum for a meeting of the Elections Oversight Committee shall be fifty percent (50%). The election shall be conducted in the same manner for Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee as provided in these Rules.~~

~~6.5.1.2. TERM:~~ Members of the ~~Elections Oversight Committee~~ EOC shall serve until the conclusion of the next Organization Meeting.

Proviso: Article 6.4.1 shall take effect on January 1, 2027, and shall not affect the composition of the Elections Oversight Committee composed for the 2026 State Committee elections.

6.4.2. **LOCAL AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVES.** Each Local Affiliate shall appoint one (1) Representative to the State Committee. Such Representatives may be removed by the Local Affiliate by a two-third (2/3) majority vote. All appointments and removals must be recorded in the minutes of the Local Affiliate and filed with the State Secretary.

~~6.5:~~4.3. **ELECTION OF MEMBERS AT-LARGE.**

6.4.3.1. **MEETING.** A statewide meeting of LPNY Members shall be held in even-numbered years to elect the five (5) Members-At-Large of the State Committee. The meeting may be held in person, by electronic means, or in a hybrid format, and all participants shall have the same rights regardless of means of attending. The meeting shall be held no later than June 30 of the year of the election of the State Committee.

6.4.3.2. **VOTER ELIGIBILITY AND CREDENTIALS.** All LPNY Members recorded on the membership list as of a cutoff date set in the call shall be eligible to vote, subject to credentialing procedures adopted by the EOC. Email addresses provided by LPNY Members may be used to deliver notice and participation mechanisms for the Election Meeting.

6.4.3.3. **NOMINATIONS.** Any LPNY Member may be nominated. The EOC may accept advance candidate filings and shall also allow nominations from the floor prior to balloting.

Exhibit 2 (page 3 of 4)

6.4.3.4. BALLOTING AND MANNER OF ELECTION. Balloting shall be conducted by secret ballot using an electronic system that batches the ballots of in-person and teleconference participants together. In the first round, each voter may cast up to five (5) votes, but may not cast more than one vote per candidate. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes, up to the number of seats available, and each having received a majority of the ballots cast, shall be elected. If seats remain unfilled after a round, a subsequent round of balloting shall be held in which each voter may cast votes equal to the number of seats still remaining. This process shall continue until all seats are filled. Ballots shall include “None of the Above” (NOTA). In case of ties or repeated deadlock, the procedures of Article 9.3 shall apply.

~~**6.5.2.1. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION.** Any LPNY Member is eligible to be a candidate for the State Committee. Each candidate must register their candidacy with the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall review each candidate’s eligibility and provide the final list of candidates to the County Affiliates within the respective Judicial District. The deadline for registration shall be April 30 in the year of the election of the State Committee.~~

~~**6.5.2.2. ELECTION BY COUNTY AFFILIATES.** Each County Affiliate shall vote from among those in the candidates list provided by the Elections Oversight Committee.~~

~~**6.5.2.3. NUMBER OF VOTES.** Each County Affiliate shall have a number of votes equal to the number of representatives in their Judicial District and shall not vote for a candidate more than once in each round.~~

~~**6.5.2.4. THRESHOLD REQUIRED TO BE ELECTED.** A candidate must have a majority number of votes from the County Affiliates within the Judicial District in order to be elected, except that County Affiliates that fail to submit their votes to the Elections Oversight Committee before their first meeting after the deadline shall not be counted.~~

~~**6.5.2.5. ADDITIONAL ROUNDS OF VOTING.** If the County Affiliates within a Judicial District do not fill all the available positions in their Judicial District, additional rounds of voting occur among the County Affiliates within the Judicial District.~~

~~**6.5.2.6. VOTING DEADLINE.** The deadline for voting for Judicial District representatives shall be July 31 in the year of the election of the State Committee.~~

~~**6.5.2.7. RESULTS.** The minutes of the meeting of the County Affiliate in which the election(s) occur must be provided to the Elections Oversight Committee, which shall be used to certify the results. The certification must be completed before August 31 in the year of the election of the State Committee.~~

Exhibit 2 (page 4 of 4)

KOLSTEE AMENDMENT 1. Change “April 30” to “June 30” in Proposal H

6.4.3.1. **MEETING.** A statewide meeting of LPNY Members shall be held in even-numbered years to elect the five (5) Members-At-Large of the State Committee. The meeting may be held in person, by electronic means, or in a hybrid format, and all participants shall have the same rights regardless of means of attending. The meeting shall be held no later than ~~April~~ June 30 of the year of the election of the State Committee.

KOLSTEE AMENDMENT 2. Expand the window in which the organization meeting can be held from the last two weeks of September to the week after Election Day in November.

~~8.5. **ORGANIZATION MEETING.** This section outlines the procedures for the Organization Meeting as required in §2-112 of Election Law or for any meeting to elect an Executive Committee following the election of a State Committee held in accordance with Article 6.4, which shall be referred to as an Organization Meeting.~~

8.5. **ORGANIZATION MEETING.** This section outlines the procedures for the Organization Meeting, defined as the meeting held for the purpose of organizing the State Committee and electing the Executive Committee following the election of a State Committee, or as otherwise required by §2-112 of the New York Election Law. The Organization Meeting shall be held annually within the period beginning September 15 and ending November 15, unless otherwise required by law.

Exhibit 3

Libertarian Party Region Formation Agreement

The state affiliates of the Libertarian Party listed below hereby form a representative region for the purpose of electing the number of members and alternates of the Libertarian National Committee that are allocated by the Libertarian Party bylaws to the region based on the number of national party sustaining members associated with the region.

To facilitate the gathering of signatures, signatures may appear on separate versions of this agreement. All versions together shall constitute the agreement.

A regional caucus shall be held at each regular national convention. Each registered National Convention delegate of states party to this agreement who are present at the caucus shall have one vote. If there is more than one nominee for any office, voting shall be by ballot.

This agreement shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of the national Libertarian Party a number of versions of this agreement signed by states with enough national party sustaining members to form a representative region. After this agreement has come into effect and before nominations have been opened at the regional caucus, a state affiliate may join or withdraw from this agreement with the written consent of a majority of the other state affiliates party to this agreement if the bylaws of the national Libertarian party so permit. Once nominations have opened, a state affiliate may join or withdraw from this agreement with the written consent of all other state affiliates party to this agreement if the bylaws of the national Libertarian party so permit.

The term of office for a regional representative or alternate shall commence at the close of the convention at which a representative region may be formed and shall end at the close of the next convention at which a representative region may be formed.

Once the elections have been completed, a person elected as a regional representative member or alternate of the LNC may be removed from office by:

- 1) a vote of the region's registered national convention delegates at a regional caucus, or
- 2) the signature of state chairs who are both
 - a) a majority of the state chairs in the region and
 - b) chair states which had a majority of the national party sustaining members in the region as determined for the formation of this region.

A vacancy may be filled by:

- 1) a vote of the region's registered national convention delegates at a regional caucus, or
- 2) a majority of the state chairs in the region without regard to the number of sustaining members in each state.

The Libertarian Party of _____ agrees, in accordance with the terms above to enter into a representative region with the Libertarian Parties of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. I attest that I am authorized by my state party bylaws to enter into this agreement and contractually bind my state party thereby.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Office: _____

Date: _____

Appendix 1A

Shall we rescind the endorsement of Larry Shape as LPNY gubernatorial candidate for 2026?

Expired at 4/12/2026, 6:52:46 PM

Yes ~ 13 ~ (62%)

No ~ 8 ~ (38%)

Abstain ~ 3

24 responses submitted.

E. Rose Leatherman ~ Y Chance Haywood ~ Y Andrew Kolstee ~ Y Rich Purtell ~ Y Mark Axinn ~ N Evan Lebrecht ~ Y Robert Schuon ~ Y Samuel Hordeski ~ N
Pietro Salvatore Geraci ~ Y Mark Braiman ~ A Sean Phelan ~ A Steven Becker ~ N Daniel Castello ~ Y Justin Carman ~ Y Jon Gunther ~ A Christopher Skelly ~ Y
Paul Grindle ~ N Susan Overeem-Cummings ~ N Mark Weinblatt ~ N Catrina Rocco ~ Y William Schmidt ~ N Chuck Dorgan ~ Y Christian Padgett ~ N
Duane Whitmer ~ Y

Appendix 1B

Shall we adopt proposal 1 as amended?

Expired at 4/12/2026, 7:56:25 PM

Yes ~ 5 ~ (28%)

No ~ 13 ~ (72%)

Abstain ~ 4

22 responses submitted.

Christian Padgett ~ N Andrew Kolstee ~ Y Mark Braiman ~ Y Robert Schuon ~ N Steven Becker ~ N Chance Haywood ~ N Chuck Dorgan ~ Y Mark Weinblatt ~ N
Mark Axinn ~ N Sean Phelan ~ Y Jon Gunther ~ N Christopher Skelly ~ N Daniel Castello ~ N Rich Purtell ~ Y Catrina Rocco ~ N E. Rose Leatherman ~ N
Susan Overeem-Cummings ~ N Samuel Hordeski ~ A Pietro Salvatore Geraci ~ N Justin Carman ~ A William Schmidt ~ A Duane Whitmer ~ A

Appendix 1C

Shall chair be authorized to enter LPNY in a new regional agreement with NJ and PA?

Expired at 4/12/2026, 8:20:26 PM

Yes ~ 17 ~ (85%)

No ~ 3 ~ (15%)

Abstain ~ 2

22 responses submitted.

Christian Padgett ~ Y Pietro Salvatore Geraci ~ Y Mark Axinn ~ Y Rich Purtell ~ Y Daniel Castello ~ Y Gary Popkin ~ Y Mark Braiman ~ Y Mark Weinblatt ~ Y
Chuck Dorgan ~ Y E. Rose Leatherman ~ Y Steven Becker ~ Y Robert Schuon ~ Y Duane Whitmer ~ N Samuel Hordeski ~ Y Jon Gunther ~ Y
Chance Haywood ~ Y Catrina Rocco ~ N Christopher Skelly ~ Y William Schmidt ~ N Sean Phelan ~ A Andrew Kolstee ~ Y Justin Carman ~ A