

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RULES COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Andrew Kolstee, Chair  
Mark Braiman  
Daniel Castello  
Pietro Geraci  
Paul Grindle

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Olenski

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Andrew Kolstee, Chair. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**The reading of the minutes of August 8, 2024, September 12, 2024, and November 12, 2024 meetings of the Rules Committee was waived and the minutes were approved** without objection.

Motion by Paul Grindle to **recommend Proposal A as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** was debated.

5.1. ~~GENERAL. ELIGIBILITY.~~ The membership of the LPNY shall consist of individuals who are registered or pre-registered to vote in the State of New York, and ~~who either~~ **meet one of the following criteria.** Any reference to “LPNY Member(s)” hereinafter shall mean member(s) of the LPNY as defined in this section.

1) 5.1.1. **LIBERTARIAN PARTY ENROLLMENT. Individuals who** are enrolled in the “Libertarian Party” in the records of the New York State Board of Elections; ~~or~~

~~2)~~ 5.1.2. **NO PARTY OR BLANK ENROLLMENT. Individuals who** are enrolled with no party or blank in the records of the New York State Board of Elections but have registered with the LPNY for the purpose of being an official member of the LPNY.

**5.1.3. ENROLLMENT IN ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY. Individuals who are enrolled with another political party and have been approved as an LPNY Member by a seven-eighths (7/8) vote at a meeting of the full State Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any individual admitted under this provision shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the State Committee or serve as a Delegate to the Libertarian National Convention.**

Motion by Paul Grindle to **amend Proposal A as follows with inserted text as indicated in purple** and failed 3-1.

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**5.1.3. ENROLLMENT IN ANOTHER POLITICAL PARTY. Individuals who are enrolled with another political party and have been approved as an LPNY Member by a seven-eighths (7/8) vote at a meeting of the full State Committee and a three quarters (3/4) vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any individual admitted under this provision shall not be eligible to serve as a member of the State Committee or serve as a Delegate to the Libertarian National Convention.**

The main motion to **adopt Proposal A as follows** was debated and failed 2-1-1.

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Motion by Mark Braiman to **recommend Proposal B as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** was debated and passed by voice vote.

**6.12. STATE COMMITTEE AS THE PROPERLY AUTHORIZED BODY WHEN RECOGNIZED AS A POLITICAL PARTY.**

**6.12.1. RECOGNITION AND AUTHORITY.** If the Libertarian Party is recognized as a political party under New York Election Law, the State Committee constituted in accordance with these Rules, as the body that selected the candidate to appear on Libertarian Party independent nomination petitions for Governor or the Electors for President and Vice President, shall be the “properly authorized body” in accordance with Section 6-128 of New York State Election Law. This authority shall remain with the duly elected State Committee until a new State Committee is elected under Election Law in accordance with these Rules.

**6.12.2. EXCLUSIVITY OF AUTHORITY.** No alternate committee, subset of the State Committee, or other entity shall be constituted or recognized as an alternative authority for this purpose. The nomination and certification of candidates shall be governed exclusively by these Rules, and no conflicting rules or actions shall be valid.

**6.12.3. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNANCE.** If, at the time of recognition as a political party, the election of a new State Committee cannot yet take place under the auspices of the New York State Board of Elections, the existing State Committee shall retain its full authority and remain the governing body until a successor is duly elected in accordance with Election Law and these Rules.

There was a discussion on **Proposal C as follows.**

**Article 11. ~~County~~ Local Affiliates**

**11.1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.** **A Local Affiliate shall represent either a single county or multiple counties within a single Judicial District.** No more than one (1) ~~County~~ **Local** Affiliate shall be recognized by and affiliated with the Libertarian Party for each county **or group of counties.** The recognized ~~County~~ **Local** Affiliate shall officially represent the LPNY Members in the county **or counties it encompasses** and shall exercise all of the powers of the County Committees as set forth herein and not prohibited by applicable law. ~~The County Affiliate shall be organized as either a County Organization or as a Constituted County Committee.~~

**11.2. UNORGANIZED COUNTIES.** An unorganized county is any county in which no recognized ~~County~~ **Local** Affiliate exists. The State Committee may appoint an Acting County Chair from among the LPNY Member(s) in that county. The Acting County

Chair is responsible for holding a meeting or event no less than twice per quarter and promoting them for the purpose of ultimately organizing a **County Local** Affiliate and building a Libertarian Party presence in the county. Terms of office of an Acting County Chair shall be six (6) months and are subject to renewal. An Acting County Chair is ineligible for renewal if they have failed to hold a meeting or event in accordance with this section.

**11.3. CONSTITUTED COUNTY COMMITTEES.** When the number of Election District delegates elected at primary is sufficient to meet Election Law requirements, and an organization meeting is held, the **County Local** Affiliate **in a single county** shall be referred to as a Constituted County Committee. No County Committee shall be recognized unless elected, organized, and constituted in accordance with the Election Law. County Committees shall adopt rules that are consistent with these Rules and Election Law.

**11.4. COUNTY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** ~~In any county where a Constituted County Committee is unable to be organized in accordance with Election Law, a~~ **County Local** Organization may be formed and affiliated ~~in those counties~~ when a convention is held to adopt ~~county~~ rules and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county **or counties**.

**11.4.1. AFFILIATION.** The group that convened must provide documentation to the State Committee that a convention was held in accordance with these Rules, county rules were adopted, and officers were elected. Upon a majority vote of the State Committee, the group that met the criteria for affiliation shall become an affiliated **County Local** Organization.

**11.4.2. NOTIFICATION.** Notice of the convention must be made to all LPNY Members in the county **or counties** as follows. The first notice is to be sent to the mailing address, email address, and/or telephone number of the LPNY member on record at the **County** Board of Elections or the LPNY. The first notice must also include a clear statement of how notice of subsequent meetings will be provided. Subsequent notification shall be sufficient if it is posted on the **County Local** Organization's website or Facebook page.

**11.4.3. CERTIFICATION.** All **County Local** Affiliates shall be recertified as a **County Local** Affiliate to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of these Rules. All **County Local** Affiliates shall provide the latest copy of the **County** Rules and minutes of any convention or election to fill vacancies. A quorum of the State Committee shall certify by a majority vote that such requirements have been met by March 31 in each odd-numbered year. **County Local** Affiliates that fail to meet such requirements may have their affiliation revoked in accordance with Article 12.

**11.4.4. SECESSION.** LPNY Members within a single county covered by a Multi-County Organization may secede to form a separate County Organization, provided they have

met the criteria and followed the procedures as outlined in these Rules. If such a county is affiliated, the county is no longer covered by the Multi-County Organization.

**11.5. RULES GOVERNING COUNTY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.** These provisions shall govern all County Organizations and shall supersede the **County Rules of the Local Affiliate**.

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**11.5.1. MEMBERS.** LPNY Members residing in the county **or counties** shall be the voting members of the **County Local** Organization. Officers are voting members of the **County Local** Organization by virtue of their office, but no individual may cast more than one vote.

**11.5.2. OFFICERS.** Each **County Local** Organization shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers and interim officers must be LPNY Members residing in the county in which they serve. Terms of office shall not exceed twenty-five (25) months and officers must be elected through single non-transferable votes. If a **County Local** Affiliate is unable to fill all officer positions, two positions may be held by one member, except that the Chair may not also serve as the Treasurer.

**11.5.3. VACANCIES.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Vice-Chair shall succeed as the Chair of the **County Local** Organization, unless otherwise specified in the **County Local** Rules. All other vacancies on the **County Local** Organization shall be filled by a majority vote of the **County Local** Organization or in a manner determined by the **County Local** Organization. In the event that any **County Local** Affiliate officer position has been vacant for at least six (6) months, the State Committee may fill the vacancy with an interim officer until the **County Local** Affiliate elects a new officer.

**11.5.4. AUTHORITY.** Until a Constituted Committee is elected in a given county by the enrolled voters of the Libertarian Party in accordance with the Election Law, a **County Local** Organization shall exercise all of the powers of a **County Local** Committee in their respective county **or counties** as set forth herein and not prohibited by applicable law.

**11.5.5. QUARTERLY MEETINGS.** **County Local** Affiliates shall hold meetings no less often than once per quarter, open to all **county** members and announced as provided in Article 8 of these rules.

**11.5.6. ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** The **County Local** Organization may appoint Election District Delegates. If they do so, they shall appoint no more than two (2) enrolled members of the Libertarian Party to represent each Election District in their county. Any enrolled member of the Libertarian Party residing in the county containing such Election District shall be appointed as an Election District delegate as long as there is a vacancy. An election shall be held if there are more candidates than Election District delegate positions. **County Local** Organizations shall determine the manner in which

Election District delegates are appointed. Such appointment is not intended to be subject to Election Law 2-104.

11.6. **DISSOLUTION.** A Local Affiliate may vote to dissolve itself. In such a case, the vote to dissolve must occur at a properly called meeting. The minutes of such meeting must be submitted to the State Committee. The State Committee shall certify the dissolution by majority vote to revoke the affiliation of the Local Affiliate, bypassing requirements to hold a hearing in Article 12.

The next meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:29 p.m. without objection.

Andrew Martin Kolstee  
Chair of the Rules Committee