



***Information for
Delegation Chairs And Delegates***

**NATIONAL CONVENTION 2008
DENVER, COLORADO**

***ADAMS MARK HOTEL
A SHERATON PROPERTY
FRIDAY, MAY 23 – MONDAY, MAY 26***

RAMP UP QUICKLY ON BYLAWS AND CONVENTION RULES

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Introduction



This booklet is presented as a means of helping ensure the 2008 Convention in Denver, CO, proceeds smoothly for you and your delegation, as well as for the speakers, candidates, officers, volunteers and assistants. It attempts to convey:

- Delegation and delegation chairs responsibilities
- Convention structure and organization
- Special convention procedures

It is important we convey the best image possible to the country through the assembled media. As one long-time Party member recently noted, “If we can’t get our own act together, how can we expect to persuade others to support us?”

Accordingly, please ensure you and your delegation understand the main points and procedures presented within this document.

ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ACCURATELY REFLECT THE BYLAWS AND ITS ADJUNCT CONVENTION RULES, THE BYLAWS REMAIN THE OFFICIAL AND FINAL DOCUMENT TO RESOLVE ISSUES AND QUESTIONS THAT MAY ARISE.

However, while Bylaws cannot be overridden, Convention Rules can be suspended and sometimes are for expediency or other purposes, with a 2/3 vote.

Responsibilities of the Delegation Chair

- Submit delegation list to the Credentials Committee by the deadline, at the latest 30 days before the convention, which starts May 23 (deadline April 23, 2008)
- Ensure your delegation understands and abides by the Party Bylaws and Convention Rules
- Ensure your delegation submits written votes to the Secretary whenever written votes are requested
- Ensure your delegation abides by convention rules for voting including one-person-one-vote, no unit voting, and limiting vote totals to your delegation’s allocation or registration, whichever is lower
- Ensure you and your delegation use the forms provided by the Secretary, particularly for convention motions and region formation. Using these forms now



for a third convention ensures convention business is recorded faithfully and efficiently conducted.

- **Ensure your delegation puts motions legibly in writing and submits them to the Secretary before addressing the convention at large**
- Participate in roll call votes

Several volunteers working an off-stage table will be resources to broach questions, concerns or comments.

Convention Structure

The business conducted at this convention derives from the party Bylaws. Article 11, Section 9 enables the Convention Rules to define convention procedures.

The first of these rules establishes the order of business for the convention:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Deletion of planks from previous platform
5. Treasurer's report
6. Bylaws and Rules committee reports
7. Platform Committee report
8. Nomination of Party candidates for President and vice-President including ratification of the National Campaign Platform)
9. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the national committee
10. Election of Judicial Committee
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

Convention Rules also stipulate that delegate counts will be updated and reported at the beginning of each session. In 2008 we will again ask delegates when they plan on leaving the convention and adjust delegate counts in the convention sessions accordingly.

There will be many votes along the way, and most will be voice votes. Several will be recorded, and this is where you as delegation chair come in.

Before we discuss voting, let's take a moment to list the process improvements for 2008.

New for 2008

Delegates at the Portland, OR 2006 National Convention approved the following changes:



- The delegate allocation provides for (approximately) 1051 delegates rather than 1451
- The delegate allocation basis now recognizes 'sustaining members' as of December 31 of the preceding year
- The methodology for platform plank balloting takes a different form
- The methodology for handling presidential nominating petitions changes
- Iterations of presidential ballots speed up
- Bylaws changes are considered in this, a presidential nominating, year
- Delegate lists are submitted to the Credentials Committee directly rather than the Libertarian Party Headquarters

DELEGATE ALLOCATIONS

Each affiliate will be awarded one delegate for:

- Each 0.35% of the 2004 vote for Libertarian Party presidential nominee Michael Badnarik, or fractions thereof. Previously this had been 0.25%.
- Each 0.14% of the December 31, 2007 'sustaining' membership, or fractions thereof. Previously this had been 0.10%. Moreover, the effective date of membership would have been October 31. The term 'sustaining' membership includes those who have given \$25 to the party in the prior 12 months, roughly equivalent to the dues-based membership in place in years past.

See the section below *Your Delegation's Representation* and the Delegate Allocation Table at the end of this document for more details.

PLATFORM PLANK RECALL BALLOTING

In 2008 each delegate will receive from the Credentials Committee five ballot tokens which may be used to indicate a delegate's displeasure with one or more platform planks. Each ballot represents one vote against one platform plank.

Delegates may allocate ballots in whatever manner they see fit. It would be acceptable to cast more than one ballot against the same plank. Delegates do not have to cast any ballots.

Delegates may begin voting immediately upon receiving their ballot tokens as they are credentialed. However, it may be best for delegates to wait to fill them out until Order of Business Item 4 when balloting officially starts. Up until that time, delegate motions might reinstate some or all of the planks deleted in Portland¹. Delegates have until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, Order of Business Item 7, to vote.

¹ And then again, maybe not. Point is, if a delegate votes and then certain planks are reinstated, the delegate has no chance to vote against the reinstated planks, were that to have been his or her preference.



Any platform plank that receives a number of ballots equal to 20% of the delegates shall be held to a strict (amendment not allowed) up/down vote of the entire Convention at the beginning of the Platform Committee report, Order of Business Item seven.

This methodology replaces and simplifies what had been a labor-intensive process involving two platform plank ballots. Each ballot may have required tabulation of 90,000 decision items (1400 + delegates and 60 + platform planks).

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING PETITIONS AND C-SPAN DEBATE INCLUSION

Each delegate will also receive two color-coded signature tokens. Delegates sign these cards and hand them over to representatives of the particular presidential and vice-presidential candidate they wish to have granted convention time for nominating speeches.

This methodology replaces and simplifies the prior process using classic petitions. These had to be assimilated, deciphered for legibility, interpreted (e.g. Mike versus Michael), validated against credentials lists, and compared for duplications.

Any presidential candidate gathering and submitting to the Secretary 30 such signature tokens will be entitled to 16 minutes of convention time for nominating speeches. Any vice-presidential candidate who submits 30 signature cards will be entitled to 11 minutes of convention time.

Note: There is a Bylaws proposal to change the 30 signature requirement to “10% of the number of registered delegates at the previous Regular Convention immediately preceding a Presidential election”. If it passes, it would take effect immediately as currently constructed. See <http://lpbylaws.blogspot.com>.

Delegates and candidates are responsible for surrendering and collecting the proper color-coded signature card for the race in question.

Before moving on, it is important to note nominating speeches represent one of three methods for promoting a candidate at the Convention.

The simplest method is to nominate a candidate to have him or her appear on the ballot but not receive any convention time for nominating speeches. Carol Moore nominated Drew Carey for president in 2004. Drew Carey appeared on the ballots distributed to affiliates. Mr. Carey was not at the Convention, and his supporters had not gathered any petition signatures. Thus, no one addressed the Convention on his behalf. Mr. Carey ended up receiving three votes.

At the other extreme, the most desirable exposure is for a candidate to be invited to participate in the presidential debates which are typically televised on C-SPAN. In 2004 this included the three candidates who had far and away the most energetic, serious and substantial campaigns – Michael Badnarik, Aaron Russo and Gary Nolan.



The debate on C-SPAN was held outside of any business session of the Convention. Accordingly, the convention committee decided, and the LNC approved, inviting candidates into the debate on the basis of a metric designed to measure the extent of the campaigns – money raised, state conventions attended and so on. The three above scored 45 or better in this metric. Jeffrey Diket, Jim Burns, and David Hollist scored single digits.

In 2008 Denver LPCon, the group that is running the LP Convention, has agreed to invite candidates into the Convention's presidential debate who manage to collect presidential petition signature tokens from 10% or more of the credentialed delegates announced at the Saturday, May 24 morning session. This is expected to number around 70 – 679 delegates had been registered by Saturday morning in 2004 in Atlanta.

PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTS

Convention Rule 9.2 in the Bylaws states:

2. *The Party's nominee for President shall be chosen by majority vote. If no candidate has attained a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes and any candidates polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote, until one candidate attains a majority.*

A clarification is in order. A strict reading of 9.2 dictates the 'candidate with the fewest votes' is determined *first* and is eliminated from the subsequent ballot. Then, any others who polled less than 5% are also eliminated.

To do otherwise could result in the following dilemma. If one candidate were to receive 49%, another 47% and three others a combined 4%, then the 5% rule *applied first* would eliminate three candidates. The remaining 'candidate with the fewest votes' would then be the one with 47%. To eliminate that candidate would leave the one with 49% as the only candidate. Thankfully the word 'and' is used in Rule 9.2 rather than 'or'.

Moreover, however unlikely this might be, in a field of 21 candidates it would be possible that every candidate could receive the same number of votes on the first ballot. In that case the 5% rule would eliminate all candidates. A motion to suspend the rules would likely emerge from the convention floor to resolve that dilemma. The Party has never come anywhere close to having 21 candidates for President.

OTHER CHANGES FOR 2008

Two minor items affect 2008 and beyond. First, the Bylaws Committee will report at every convention. Previously only off-year conventions had been slated for Bylaws Committee work.



Secondly, delegate lists should now be submitted to the Credentials Committee directly rather than the Libertarian Party headquarters.

Bearing Repeating

Several items, while not new for 2008, are worth repeating.

PLEASE USE THE AMENDMENT FORM AND WRITE LEGIBLY

Convention Rule 3.2 authorizes the Chair to require “any motion offered from the Convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.” Just as in 2004 and 2006 this provision will be enacted for 2008. In particular, this applies to motions that must be displayed on the overhead. Trivial motions (e.g., move to adjourn) are exempt.

The point is to ensure the Convention does not have to wait while the Secretary keys in text. Additionally, this ensures we have the exact text for the Convention minutes.

The Convention will provide a standard form for recording motions which is shown in the appendix and illustrated on the right below. Using this form will help:

- Prepare video displays with the motion’s text and eliminate delays
- Reconstruct convention proceedings for the record
- Ensure motions are presented in the appropriate order

The examples below are from 2004. Not to embarrass anyone but rather to illustrate the point, when it came time for the Convention to address the motion on the left, only the words “Add”, “Transition”, “Column 2”, an arrow, and “To this” were recorded. Any instructions delivered verbally were lost to the universe forever.

We know the delegate who submitted the above motion on the left in 2004 to be a responsible, dedicated party member and regular donor. The motion had to do with the space program, and the delegate was annoyed that his spoken words delivered personally to (apparently someone whom he thought was) the Secretary had been fumbled.

Contrast that with the form on the right which to this day provides a clear record of an element of business conducted at the 2004 Convention. It also provided a means of preparing the text in advance for display on the convention projection equipment without having delegates wait while the Secretary keys the text.

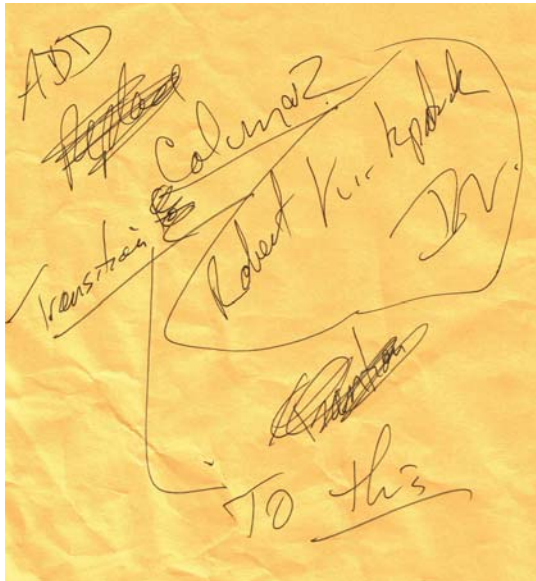
PLEASE USE THE REGION FORMATION FORM AND WRITE LEGIBLY

Another form provided in the appendix is for the convenience of state chairs. Chairs will enter into agreements with other states to form LNC regions and name representatives and alternates.



Regions may be formed between 90 days in advance of the Convention the second day of the Convention. In 2008, this interval runs from February 23, 2008 through the end of convention business on May 24, 2008.

States or groups of states whose membership totals 10% or more are entitled to one LNC seat for each 10% of membership they encompass. The membership percentages to use are the ones used in the determination of delegate allocation. These numbers are provided in the appendix.



①

Libertarian Party
Presidential Nominating Convention
Atlanta 2004
DELEGATE MOTION

Motion pertains to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws:	Article	Section	And is a (an)
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention Rule:	Number	Section	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution:			<input type="checkbox"/> Deletion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Platform, Part IV b. 2:			<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement

New Text (additions and replacements)

~~was added~~ add " or attacked ... "
after, declared over upon ...

Old Text (deletions and replacements)

delete "or solid intelligence proves
they are about to launch a military
attack on U.S soil.

Delegate: Brian Mag Delegation 16
(Print): Brian Irving Date: May 28

CHANGES

SECRETARY’S TABLE

We will again use an area off stage to:

- Distribute delegation chair’s manuals
- Get extra Amendment and other forms
- Submit forms for amendments, region formation
- Create ballots with delegate counts, candidates
- Get written messages to the people on stage.

Please see the next page for the diagram.

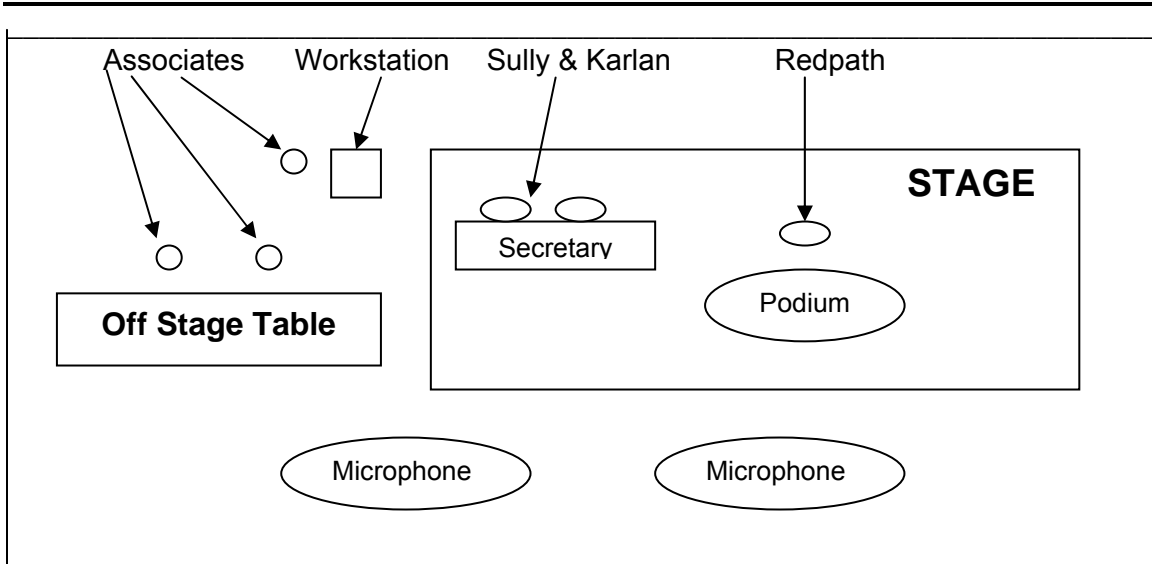
In addition, we will again issue a request for volunteers to help with the convention business. Dan Karlan, Steven Burden and Joseph Magyer helped with the Secretary’s work at the Convention and were honored at the Torch Club breakfast on Monday morning. Joe Magyer provided a blog of his experiences. This is a unique opportunity for state chairs to reward qualified activists by recommending them for this position. Contact Bob Sullentrup at rwsully@charter.net.



Prospective helpers should have the following experience:

- Be familiar with the Bylaws
- Be familiar with the Delegation Chair’s Manual
- Be proficient with MS Word (Mail Merge) and MS Excel
- Be a reliable and worthy party member.

Being such a volunteer will not preclude the opportunity to be a voting, credentialed delegate.



REGISTERING DELEGATES BY SESSION

The Bylaws in Article 11 Section 8 states:

8. QUORUM:
A QUORUM SHALL CONSIST OF 40% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DELEGATES REGISTERED IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CONVENTION.

Once again we will ask delegates to indicate when they plan on leaving the convention and adjust delegate registration accordingly. In 2004 the practice was to base quorum requirements on cumulative delegate registration. Many did leave the convention, typically after Badnarik had gained the nomination.

On Monday of the 2004 Convention, the chair called a 30 minute recess to round up other delegates. When the session resumed, a count-off revealed that we had met quorum by fewer than 20, scarcely more than needed.

In 2006 we solved this problem by asking delegates as they were credentialed when they expected to leave. The Credentials Committee decremented the delegate counts for those who had left. This enabled the quorum requirement go down as well.



Who Can Be a Delegate?

Bylaws Article 11, *Conventions*, section 3.a specifies who can be a delegate:

Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party.

Article 5, *Membership*, section 1 states:

Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.²

In other words, national members are those who have signed the pledge. Members of affiliates need not be national members. Therefore, affiliate members may or may not have signed the pledge, depending upon the requirements of the particular affiliate. Finally, there is no requirement for an individual to be a member of the affiliate of his or her residence.

How Are Delegates Chosen?

Article 11, *Conventions*, section 3.b, specifies how delegates are chosen:

Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a Regular Convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate party; provided however, that only members of the Party as defined in these Bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a Regular Convention.

In other words, affiliates choose their delegates provided that Libertarians, national or affiliate members, do the choosing.

Who is counted in Delegate Apportionment?

Article 5, *Membership*, section 3, defines a sustaining member:

"Sustaining member" is any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member.

Article 5, *Membership*, section 5, directs us to include other members:

Higher levels of contribution by or on behalf of a Party member qualify as a sustaining member status for any provision of these Bylaws.

Article 5, *Membership*, section 6, directs us to count sustaining members for delegate allocation:

² The Portland Convention considered changing this language to *Members of the party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they support smaller government, lower taxes and more individual freedom.* This motion failed.



Only sustaining members shall be counted for delegate apportionment and National Committee representation.

“Sustaining members” in the era of zero-dues is analogous to “dues-paying” members that had been used in past years as the basis of delegate allocation.

Delegation Voting

Convention votes may either be voice votes or they may be written. Votes may pertain to individuals or to platform planks.

When written votes are required, the Secretary will make available forms for your delegation. When a vote pertains to individuals running for nomination or LNC office, the form will list the candidates plus “None of the above”. The form will have a place for you to total the votes from your delegation and will have a place for your delegation chair to sign and date.

The form will show your delegation allocation and your current count of delegates in attendance. A delegation allocation is the maximum number of delegates your affiliate is entitled to.

Seating Delegates and Alternates

Before the convention your delegation will have submitted rosters to the Credentials Committee. At the convention you may alter this list only through the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee reports to the Convention at the beginning of each session any proposed changes to the delegate lists. Changes must then be approved by the Convention.

Within your delegation you may identify alternate delegates. The idea is to specify an individual to replace a given delegate should that delegate not be on the convention floor to cast a vote. Presumably your delegation would only want to do this when your delegation has more convention attendees than allocated delegate slots.

The use of alternates to either fill empty spots in the delegation or to substitute for delegates being temporarily away from the floor is managed by each delegation according to its affiliate rules. Changing a voter’s status from alternate to delegate does not require Credential Committee or convention approval.

Voting

Above all else, please abide by a fundamental rule of delegation voting:

Do not submit ballot forms that reflect more votes than your delegation’s allocation or more than your current count of delegates and alternates as validated through the Credentials Committee and displayed on the form.



There are a lot of moving parts in a national convention. One of the things we do to help eliminate confusion and delays is to print delegate allocation and current delegate authorizations on the forms distributed to affiliates for recording ballots.

When recording your delegation's votes, do not differentiate between votes cast by delegates versus votes cast by alternates.

See the sample summary ballot attached.

Written votes will be used for:

- President and Vice-President
- National Committee Officers
- National Committee Members-at-Large (five elected)
- Judicial Committee (seven elected)

Voting Rules

Please keep in mind rules established through the Bylaws and Convention Rules. In particular, see Convention Rule 2, *Voting Eligibility*.

- One person, one vote.
- If your delegation is allocated 20 delegates but only 10 people show up and are credentialed, you may only record 10 votes.
- No unit or block voting. To increase your affiliate's impact, you may wish to cast all of your votes according to the majority of the delegation. Not allowed.
- Delegates may vote for up to five different LNC At-Large representatives.
- Delegates may vote for up to seven different Judicial Committee members.

E-Voting

The Secretary, who happens to be the Libertarian National Committee's Convention Oversight Committee Chair, researched the possibility of using hand-held devices to record delegate votes. Such audience participation units were used successfully, and for free, in a test bed at the Colorado state convention in 2007.

The Convention Oversight Committee, noting the cost per delegate would be \$15-20, recommended to the Libertarian National Committee to not pursue e-voting for 2008 but to revisit the technology for 2010 when prices should have declined and software advanced. (If you are one of our Party's masterful wizards and know something about e-voting technologies, feel free to contact Bob Sullentrup at rwsully@charter.net after June 10.)

Signature Tokens for Presidential or Vice-Presidential Nominations




The Portland Convention approved a more efficient methodology for collecting and validating petition signatures for candidates securing convention time for their nominating and seconding speeches. Convention Rule 9: *Nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates* lays out the methodology for nominating and selecting the Libertarian Party presidential ticket. Section 4 states:

Nominations for President and Vice-President shall be submitted to the Chair in writing before nominations are announced from the Convention floor and before any nominating and seconding speeches are given. No nominee for President or Vice-President shall be allocated time for nominating and seconding speeches unless at least 30 registered delegates join in the nomination in writing submitted to the Chair. No delegate may join in nominating more than one candidate for each office. The affixing of signatures to a nominating petition per this requirement shall be effected by a transfer of signature tokens issued by the Credentials Committee.

Accordingly, delegates will receive two signature tokens as they are credentialed which they may sign and surrender to the presidential and vice-presidential campaigns of their choice. A candidate who collects 30 such tokens will be granted 16 minutes (president) or 11 (vice-president) of convention time for nominating and seconding speeches.

Note: There is a Bylaws proposal to change the 30 signature requirement to “10% of the number of registered delegates at the previous Regular Convention immediately preceding a Presidential election”. If it passes, it would take effect immediately as currently constructed. See <http://lpbylaws.blogspot.com>.

The signature token for the presidential petition looks like the image below. Delegates will receive one of these for president and a similar one for vice president.

	2008 Libertarian Party Presidential Petition Signature Token
	SURRENDER THIS TOKEN TO THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE. CANDIDATES COLLECTING 30 SUCH TOKENS WILL BE ENTITLED TO 16 MINUTES OF CONVENTION TIME FOR NOMINATIONS.
	CANDIDATE: _____
	DELEGATE: _____
BYLAWS ARTICLE XI, SECTION 9; CONVENTION RULE 9, SECTION 4.	



Presidential Debate Inclusion

Denver LPCon, the group that is running the LP Convention, has agreed to invite candidates into the Convention’s presidential debate who manage to collect presidential petition signature tokens from 10% or more of the credentialed delegates announced at the Saturday, May 24 morning session. This is expected to number around 70 – 679 delegates had been registered by Saturday morning in 2004 in Atlanta. The Saturday evening presidential debate is typically broadcast nationally on C-SPAN.

This puts the responsibility for deciding who participates in the C-SPAN debates into the hands of delegates.

ACCORDINGLY, SIGNATURE TOKENS ARE VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT. MAKE SURE YOU ‘SPEND’ YOURS WISELY AND ARE SUFFICIENTLY INFORMED BEFOREHAND. DO THE REQUISITE HOMEWORK. GO TO LP.COM AND FOLLOW THE LINKS TO THE CANDIDATES. IN SOME SMALL WAY, THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN POLITICS DEPENDS UPON IT.

Delegate Voting for Platform Plank Recall Vote

The Portland Convention eliminated the first and second platform plank balloting in favor of a simpler process that brings platform planks up for a straight up/down vote early on in the Convention. Convention Rule 7: *Debating and Voting – Platform*, Section 2 contains the procedure. Essentially, delegates will receive five ballot tokens they may use to cast votes against any of the platform planks, piling their votes against a single plank or spreading them around as they desire.

The ballot will look like the image below and delegates will receive five of them.

The new methodology replaces the labor-intensive first and second platform plank balloting that might have required the tabulation of 90,000 decisions on 62 planks from 1450 delegates.

2008 Libertarian Party Platform Plank Signature Token and Ballot		
<input type="checkbox"/> I.1 Freedom and Responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/> I.6 Right to Keep and Bear Arms	<input type="checkbox"/> II.2 Corp Welfare, Monopolies & Subsidies
<input type="checkbox"/> I.2 Freedom of Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> I.7 Conscription	<input type="checkbox"/> II.3 Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> I.3 Freedom of Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> I.8 Reproductive Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> III.1 Crime and Victimless Crime
<input type="checkbox"/> I.4 Property and Resource Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> I.9 Sexuality and Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> III.2 The War on Drugs
<input type="checkbox"/> I.5 The Right to Privacy	<input type="checkbox"/> II.1 Government Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> IV.1 Immigration
DELEGATE (SIGNATURE REQUIRED): _____		.1



Any platform plank that reaches the threshold – a number of votes equivalent to 20% of registered delegates – will be brought before the Convention to a straight up/down vote at the beginning of the Platform Committee report, order of business item seven. Balloting on planks officially begins with order of business item four. (See ‘Convention Structure’ on page 4 or Convention Rule 1 for the Convention’s order of business.)

Delegates will receive their five ballot tokens upon becoming credentialed. At that point delegates may, if they choose, cast their ballots against any of the 15 planks that emerged from the Portland Convention. The ballot tokens will have the planks nicely formatted with check boxes to indicate which plank they are voting against.

At the same time there is nothing preventing a delegate moving to suspend the rules to reinstate one, two, three or all of the planks eliminated in Portland before order of business item four. If such a provision were to pass with its requisite 2/3rds, then the pre-printed ballot tokens delegates receive at credentialing will be incomplete. Delegates would then be instructed to write on the reverse side of their ballot tokens which plank they would choose to bring up for a recall vote. Delegates who had already voted would have marked and surrendered their ballot tokens, thus being unable to vote on the extended list. Accordingly, a wise delegate will wait until order of business item four of the convention to begin balloting, just in case the list changes.

The above should not to be construed as a likelihood of such actions, or as any endorsement. But the Secretary, after working the 2004 Convention in which Badnarik entered Atlanta in third place yet won the nomination, and after 2006 in Portland when the Party shrunk its platform from 62 to 15 planks, has learned to anticipate possibilities.

Also note that each delegate has five ballot tokens and that the threshold to recall a platform plank for an up/down vote is 20%. Thus it follows as a mathematical imperative no more than 25 platform planks could be recalled for up/down votes. If we had 26 planks, at least one would escape the recall vote. With the 15 planks now in place, it would be possible to recall every plank.

That would be the end of the story, except for an oversight that occurred in Portland. The intention of the 2006 Bylaws Committee was that any planks brought before the Convention for an up/down vote would be decided by a voice vote. However, Convention Rule 3 was never amended to permit this.

Convention Rule 3: Voting Procedure and Motions

1. On all matters, **except the retention and final retention of platform planks**, the election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by voice vote. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a counted vote will be held.



Since the phrase ‘except the retention and final retention of platform planks’ remains in the Bylaws, we must follow it regardless of intent. Accordingly, we will prepare for a recorded ballot.

However, a delegate could move to suspend the Convention Rules to allow a voice vote should any planks be brought before the Convention for this purpose.

For reference, Section 2 of Rule 7 follows.

After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:

- a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.*
- b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.*
- c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.*
- d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.*
- e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.*
- f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.*
- g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.*

Roll Calls

Votes for President, Vice-President, the first round of votes for National Committee Chair and LNC At-Large members will include announcements by delegation chairs of their respective vote totals in addition to written submissions. Convention Rules 9.1, 9.3, 10.1.c and 10.2.c state that the order shall be alphabetical by state starting with a randomly selected delegation.

For 2008, those initial delegations were determined using random numbers from line eight of the random number table listed in the 20th Edition of *Standard Mathematical Tables*, page 599, considering successive pairs of digits and recognizing only combinations between 01 and 51 inclusive (don’t forget the DC affiliate), to produce the following:



	President		Vice-President
First Ballot	30 New Hampshire		30 New Hampshire
Second Ballot	19 Louisiana		18 Kentucky
Third Ballot	19 Louisiana		09 District of Columbia
Fourth Ballot	05 California		22 Massachusetts
Fifth Ballot	46 Vermont		01 Alabama
	LNC Chair		LNC At-Large
First Ballot	46 Vermont		45 Utah

By luck of the draw, New Hampshire emerged as the starting point for both ballots of the presidential ticket.

Subsequent Ballots

If no candidate attains a majority on the first ballot for President or Vice-President, Convention Rule 9.2 prescribes that the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated from the subsequent ballot. In addition, any candidate polling less than 5% shall also be eliminated from the ballot.

If no candidate attains a majority on the first ballot for National Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, the candidate with the fewest votes on the latest ballot shall be struck from subsequent ballots.

In the case of ties affecting the outcome of elections of five At-Large members and seven Judicial Committee members, another ballot for the remaining offices shall be held with each delegate allowed to cast as many votes as there are remaining offices to fill. Majorities are not required in At-Large members or Judicial Committee members. Only the top finishers are considered.

By the way, if “None of the above” wins a majority, then the position is considered vacant and none of the contestants get to fulfill the role this term.

Delegation Seating

The Convention Oversight Committee including Admiral Michael C. Colley, Julie Fox and chair Bob Sullentrup decided to once again use convention-to-convention membership growth rates as the metric to determine where delegations are seated at the Convention. Delegations with the highest growth rates will be seated nearest to the front.

For 2008, the following ordering will apply:

		Members As of 12/31/2007	Members As of 12/31/2005	Ranked Year-Year Growth
1	South Carolina	265	153	73.2%
2	North Dakota	20	14	42.9%
3	South Dakota	35	25	40.0%

		Members As of 12/31/2007	Members As of 12/31/2005	Ranked Year-Year Growth
4	Kansas	177	147	20.4%
5	Montana	54	45	20.0%
6	Utah	104	90	15.6%
7	Arizona	350	310	12.9%
8	Oklahoma	108	97	11.3%
9	Nebraska	64	58	10.3%
10	Nevada	218	202	7.9%
11	Louisiana	114	106	7.5%
12	Missouri	261	243	7.4%
13	Wyoming	39	37	5.4%
14	Colorado	462	442	4.5%
15	Connecticut	198	192	3.1%
16	Tennessee	265	258	2.7%
17	Alabama	180	177	1.7%
18	New York	554	545	1.7%
19	Kentucky	104	103	1.0%
20	Arkansas	72	72	0.0%
21	Illinois	510	512	-0.4%
22	New Mexico	135	136	-0.7%
23	Ohio	569	585	-2.7%
24	Idaho	64	66	-3.0%
25	Rhode Island	30	31	-3.2%
26	Mississippi	48	50	-4.0%
27	Wisconsin	206	215	-4.2%
28	West Virginia	55	58	-5.2%
29	North Carolina	355	383	-7.3%
30	Florida	861	933	-7.7%
31	New Hampshire	163	178	-8.4%
32	Delaware	48	53	-9.4%
33	Virginia	523	587	-10.9%
34	Maryland	285	321	-11.2%
35	Maine	72	82	-12.2%
36	Texas	797	917	-13.1%
37	Minnesota	206	240	-14.2%
38	Hawaii	54	63	-14.3%
39	Washington	435	516	-15.7%
40	Pennsylvania	574	685	-16.2%
41	Michigan	511	612	-16.5%
42	Massachusetts	277	333	-16.8%
43	California	2075	2544	-18.4%
44	Alaska	74	91	-18.7%
45	New Jersey	308	382	-19.4%
46	Indiana	333	417	-20.1%
47	Oregon	222	281	-21.0%
48	Iowa	112	144	-22.2%
49	Vermont	39	51	-23.5%
50	DC	33	44	-25.0%
51	Georgia	507	680	-25.4%



Convention Committees

There are three convention committees to be formed according to the Bylaws, Article 11, *Conventions*, Section 7. These committees include the Bylaws and Rules, Platform and Credentials Committees.

Bylaws and Rules Committee

The Bylaws (Article 11, Section 7, Item A) indicate the Bylaws Committee shall consist of ten Party members appointed by the LNC no later than three months before a regular convention. No more than five of these members can be members of the current LNC.

The LNC selected the Bylaws Committee for 2008 at its July 21-22, 2007 meeting in Pittsburgh. The Committee consisted of:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. M Carling, Chair | mcarling@gmail.com |
| 2. Dan Karlan | dankarlan@earthlink.net |
| 3. Bill Redpath | wredpath@his.com (resigned) |
| 4. Blay Tarnoff | lpny@ebay.com |
| 5. Rob Oates | roboates@yahoo.com |
| 6. Rob Latham | freeutahns@yahoo.com |
| 7. Aaron Starr | starrcpa@pacbell.net |
| 8. Heather Scott | HeatherScott01@hotmail.com |
| 9. Seth Cohn | sethcohn@gnuhamshire.com |
| 10. Frank Manske | fjmanske@value.net |

Alternates include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st Alfred Torrejon | alfredo_t74@hotmail.com |
| 2 nd Tim Lucey | timluceywork@yahoo.com |

Fred Jabin was selected as an alternate. He resigned within two days citing time constraints

See <http://lpbylaws.blogspot.com/> for Bylaws Committee proposals for 2008.

Platform Committee

The Portland Convention reduced the LP platform from 62 planks to a quarter of that number.

The Platform is online at: http://www.lp.org/issues/platform_all.shtml.



Article 11, Section 7, Item B indicates the Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:

- One member by each of the ten affiliate parties having the largest memberships as determined for delegate allocations. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Convention (December 31).
- Ten members appointed by the National Committee, including no less than five members from states other than the ten having the largest Party memberships. These members shall be appointed no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Convention (December 31).

At its July 21-22, 2007 meeting in Pittsburgh, the LNC named the following members to the 2008 Platform Committee:

1. Alicia Mattson, Chair	agmattson@gmail.com
2. Steve Dasbach	stevedasbach@aol.com
3. Adam Mayer	adamsmayer@gmail.com
4. David Aitken	daitken@tde.com
5. Hardy Macia	hardy@freevermont.org
6. Steve Burden	sjburden@tampabay.rr.com
7. Robert Capozzi	rccapozzi@yahoo.com
8. Bonnie Scott	rabbit@cownow.com
9. Brian Holtz	brian@holtz.org
10. Jon Roland	jon@jonroland.org

Alternates include:

1 st Rob Power	robpower@robpower.com
2 nd Ruth Bennett	BennettRuth@comcast.net
3 rd Jim Duensing	jimduensing@lpnevada.org
4 th Morey Straus	morey@stra.us

The top 10 states, based on 12-31-2007 membership, with members already named to the 2008 Platform Committee included, pending official membership totals.

	State	Members As Of 12/31/2007	2008 Representative	E-mail
1	California	2075	Bruce Dovner	bdovner@artnet.net
2	Florida	861	Viki Kirkland	vikimm@bellsouth.net
3	Texas	797	Guy McLendon	guy@meclendon.net
4	Pennsylvania	574	Henry Haller	hehaller@mac.com
5	Ohio	569	Mike Smitley	Mike.smitley@nwlpo.org
6	New York	554	Audrey Capozzi-Pappaeliou	audgeo@aol.com
7	Virginia	523	Donny Ferguson	donnyferguson@gmail.com



	State	Members As Of 12/31/2007	2008 Representative	E-mail
8	Michigan	511	Dan Grow	dgrow@lawssa.com
9	Illinois	510	Val Vetter	val_vv@yahoo.com
10	Georgia	507	Glenn Tatum	Glenn.tatup@lpgeorgia.com

Colorado placed out of the running with 462 members, 45 shy of Georgia.

Contact Alicia Mattson (agmattson@gmail.com) for more information on the Platform Committee.

See <http://lpplatform.blogspot.com/> for Platform Committee proposals for 2008.

Credentials Committee

The credentials Committee is responsible for compiling and managing the list of eligible convention voters. The Committee works before the convention to verify delegate lists sent in by the states.

It will meet in Denver, CO the day before the convention opens, and its work continues throughout the convention until the beginning of the last session.

Article 11, Section 7, Item C indicates the Credentials Committee shall consist of 10 members selected as follows:

- Five members chosen by the National Committee.
- One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest memberships as determined for Convention delegate allocations. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Convention.

At their July 21-22, 2007 meeting in Pittsburgh, the LNC named the following members to the 2008 Credentials Committee:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Emily Salvette, Chair | credentials@lpl.org |
| 2. Jeff Dimit | jldimit@aol.com |
| 3. Christiana Mayer | christianamayher@gmail.com |
| 4. Kate O'Brien | kateobrienpe@hotmail.com |
| 5. Andrew Hall | halla12@fsuimail.ferris.edu |

Alternates include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 st Gerhard Langguth | gerhard@langguth-us.net |
| 2 nd Steve Galpin | galpinforrep82@aol.com |



3rd Michael Houze
 4th Gary Johnson
 5th Sharon Dubois

sedition@aol.com
 seniorease@seniorease.com

The top five states based on 12-31-2007 membership are entitled to seats on the Committee.

State	Members As Of 12/31/2007	Representative	e-mail
1 California	2075	CoryNott Alt: Camden McConnell	corynott@yahoo.com, cwmccconnell@comcast.com
2 Florida	861	(Susal Lipschultz) ¹	
3 Texas	797	Gary Johnson	garyjohnson@compuserve.com
4 Pennsylvania	574	Willie Harmon	Willieisin2u@yahoo.com
5 Ohio	569	tbd	Michael_houze@yahoo.com

¹ Susan Lipschultz resigned from the Credentials Committee and awaits replacement.

Contact interim chair Emily Salvette, salvette@ameritech.net, for more information on the Credentials Committee.

Your Delegation's Representation

Article 11, *Conventions*, Section 4 establishes the methodology for calculating the number of delegates your affiliate is entitled to. It is the sum of:

- Your affiliate's percentage of nationwide party membership, one delegate for each 0.14% that you have
- Your affiliate's percentage of votes cast nationwide for the last Libertarian Party presidential candidate, one delegate for each 0.35% that you have.

Since there are approximately 714 slices of a whole at 0.14% each and 286 at 0.35% each, a Libertarian Party convention will have slots for at least 1000 delegates. Since states are credited for 'fractions thereof', roughly half the states benefit with an additional delegate in each category. The other half would have been rounded up as they were, resulting in approximately 1051 possible delegates.

The table in the appendix displays the delegate allocations for each affiliate.

Regions of the National Committee

Your affiliate party can band together with others to form a 'representative region' of the National Committee. Your representative region will be entitled to one National Committee representative for every 10% of the total national party membership your



region encompasses. The membership numbers used for this purpose are the same as used for delegate allocation. See the table at the end of this document.

One LNC representative is authorized for each 10% of total party membership. Regions may be formed or dissolved every two years during a period from 90 days prior to the start of the convention until the second day of the convention.

For 2008, this period begins 90 days before the start of the convention, February 23, and ends the second day of the convention, May 24. (Bylaws, Article 8, *National Committee*, Section 2.c.)

Report changes to the Secretary (and please use the form provided in the Appendix).



Time Allotments

The Convention Rules stipulate the number of minutes allowed for certain events at the convention. The following tables summarize those allotments. While this is not a presidential nominating convention, the tables are listed here for completeness.

President and Vice-President

16	Total time for nominating and seconding speeches for presidential candidate (Convention Rule 9.4)
11	Total time for nominating and seconding speeches for a vice-presidential candidates (Convention Rule 9.4)
5	Time allowed for presidential nominee to address the convention for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees (Convention Rule 9.3)

Party Platform

180	For delegates to mark ballots whether to retain planks (Convention Rule 7.2)
2	When no minority position on a Platform Committee recommendation exists on an item, the committee chair or designee presents and explains a recommendation (Convention Rule 7.4.a)
2, 2	When a minority position on a platform plank exists, both spokespersons have two minutes to present and explain their positions (Convention Rule 7.5.a)
5	When a minority position on a platform plank exists, delegates have a total of five minutes to express views without offering amendments (Convention Rule 7.5.b)
15	Open discussion of a platform plank (Convention Rule 7.4.b)
2	Delegate to present and explain a platform amendment (Convention Rule 7.6)
180	For delegates to mark ballots on planks (if any) identified for inclusion on the “Final retention list” (Convention Rule 7.8 and Order of Business Item 8)

National Committee

5, 3, 3	For National Committee Chair, one five minute nominating speech, and two three minute seconding speeches.
2, 1, 1	For National Committee Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, At-Large members, Judicial Committee members, one two minute nominating speech and two one minute seconding speeches.

Passage Requirements

The Bylaws and Convention Rules state the percentages and fractions required for passage of measures or to otherwise take certain actions:

Candidates

President, Vice-President, LNC Officers	Majority
LNC At-Large Representatives and Judicial Committee members (Convention Rules 10.2.d and 10.3)	Top Vote Getters

Resolutions

Required to pass a resolution (Convention Rule 8.1)	2/3
---	-----

Amendments

Required to amend the Convention Rules (Convention Rule 12)	2/3
Required for additional platform planks, or additions to platform planks (Convention Rule 7.1)	2/3
Required to amend Bylaws (Bylaws Article 14.1)	2/3
Amend Statement of Principles (Article 14.2); applies to the total of registered delegates	7/8

Deletions and Retentions

Delete a platform plank (Convention Rule 7.1)	Majority
Retain a plank of the platform, assuming quorum participation (Convention Rule 7.2); if no quorum, retained by default (ibid)	Majority
Remove a plank of the platform, assuming quorum participation (Convention Rule 7.2); if no quorum, retained by default (ibid)	Majority

Challenges

Percentage of delegates needed to challenge an adopted platform plank or resolution believing it to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles (Convention Rules 7.9 and 8.2)	10%
Number of delegates needed to object to the chair's determination of a voice vote in order to bring about a counted vote	20

Reinstatements

Fraction needed to reinstate a platform plank or resolution which the Judicial Committee has vetoed, upholding a challenge by 10% or more of the delegates that the platform plank as adopted did not conform to the	3/4
--	-----



Statement of Principles (Convention Rules 7.9 and 8.2)	
--	--

Procedures

After 15 minute discussion of Platform Committee recommendation, move to a vote (immediate consideration) on the recommendation, as amended. Otherwise, the item is tabled to be reconsidered after other Platform Committee recommendations are considered.	Majority
--	----------

Quorums

Convention quorum (Bylaws Article 11.8)	40%
Convention Committee quorum (Convention Rule 5.4)	> 50%

Signatures

Number of signature tokens of registered delegates needed for a candidate to be nominated for President or Vice-President (Convention Rule 9.4)	30
---	----

Delegate Allocations



The following table lists number of delegates each affiliate is entitled to at the 2008 convention (blue column). See the Bylaws, Article 11, *Conventions*, Sections 4 and 5 for the allocation methodology.

Use the 'Percent of Members' column (yellow) of this table to form representative regions for the Libertarian National Committee. One LNC representative is authorized for each 10% of total party membership.

State	2008 Delegate Allocation	Membership			Presidential Vote		
		Members As of 12/31/2007	LNC Region Formation -- Percent of Members	Delegates Based on Members	Badnarik 2004 Vote	Percent of 2004 Vote	Delegates Based on 2004 Vote
AL	13	180	1.274%	10	3,529	0.888%	3
AK	6	74	0.524%	4	1,675	0.422%	2
AZ	27	350	2.478%	18	11,856	2.985%	9
AR	6	72	0.510%	4	2,352	0.592%	2
CA	142	2075	14.690%	105	50,165	12.629%	37
CO	30	462	3.271%	24	7,664	1.929%	6
CT	14	198	1.402%	11	3,367	0.848%	3
DE	4	48	0.340%	3	586	0.148%	1
DC	3	33	0.234%	2	502	0.126%	1
FL	53	861	6.096%	44	11,996	3.020%	9
GA	40	507	3.589%	26	18,387	4.629%	14
HI	4	54	0.382%	3	1,377	0.347%	1
ID	7	64	0.453%	4	3,844	0.968%	3
IL	50	510	3.611%	26	32,442	8.167%	24
IN	30	333	2.358%	17	18,058	4.546%	13
IA	9	112	0.793%	6	2,992	0.753%	3
KS	12	177	1.253%	9	4,013	1.010%	3
KY	8	104	0.736%	6	2,619	0.659%	2
LA	9	114	0.807%	6	2,781	0.700%	3
ME	6	72	0.510%	4	1,965	0.495%	2
MD	20	285	2.018%	15	6,094	1.534%	5
MA	26	277	1.961%	15	15,022	3.782%	11
MI	34	511	3.618%	26	10,552	2.656%	8
MN	15	206	1.458%	11	4,639	1.168%	4
MS	5	48	0.340%	3	1,793	0.451%	2
MO	22	261	1.848%	14	9,831	2.475%	8
MT	5	54	0.382%	3	1,733	0.436%	2
NE	6	64	0.453%	4	2,041	0.514%	2
NV	15	218	1.543%	12	3,176	0.800%	3
NH	10	163	1.154%	9	341	0.086%	1
NJ	20	308	2.181%	16	4,514	1.136%	4
NM	9	135	0.956%	7	2,382	0.600%	2
NY	38	554	3.922%	29	11,607	2.922%	9
NC	27	355	2.513%	18	11,731	2.953%	9



State	2008 Delegate Allocation	Membership			Presidential Vote		
		Members As of 12/31/2007	LNC Region Formation -- Percent of Members	Delegates Based on Members	Badnarik 2004 Vote	Percent of 2004 Vote	Delegates Based on 2004 Vote
ND	3	20	0.142%	2	851	0.214%	1
OH	40	569	4.028%	29	14,676	3.695%	11
OK	7	108	0.765%	6	1	0.000%	1
OR	18	222	1.572%	12	7,260	1.828%	6
PA	46	574	4.064%	30	21,185	5.333%	16
RI	3	30	0.212%	2	907	0.228%	1
SC	17	265	1.876%	14	3,608	0.908%	3
SD	3	35	0.248%	2	964	0.243%	1
TN	18	265	1.876%	14	4,866	1.225%	4
TX	69	797	5.642%	41	38,787	9.764%	28
UT	9	104	0.736%	6	3,375	0.850%	3
VT	3	39	0.276%	2	1,102	0.277%	1
VA	35	523	3.703%	27	11,032	2.777%	8
WA	31	435	3.080%	22	11,955	3.010%	9
WV	5	55	0.389%	3	1,405	0.354%	2
WI	16	206	1.458%	11	6,464	1.627%	5
WY	3	39	0.276%	2	1,171	0.295%	1
Total	1051	14,125	100.000%	739	397,235	100.000%	312

Notes:

- The Secretary has accepted an affidavit from the Oklahoma chair attesting that he voted for Michael Badnarik as a write-in presidential candidate in a state in which the LP did not gain ballot access.

Source for Presidential Vote:

<http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/fe2004/2004presgenresults.pdf>



Libertarian Party National Convention Denver 2008

For Office Use Only

Delegate Motion

Motion pertains to:

<input type="checkbox"/> Bylaws:	Article _____	Section _____	And is a (an)
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention Rule:	Number _____	Section _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Addition (new)
<input type="checkbox"/> Platform	Section _____	Plank _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Deletion
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution		<input type="checkbox"/> Attachment	<input type="checkbox"/> Replacement

New Text (additions and replacements)

Old Text (deletions and replacements)

Delegate: _____ Delegation _____

(Print): _____ Date: _____

Seconder (print): _____ Delegation _____

(not required, but strongly encouraged and much appreciated)



Libertarian Party
National Convention
Denver, 2008

Sample Ballot

Delegation: MyState

First Ballot for: ThisOffice

JUSTIN TYME	_____
PETE ZERRIA	_____
DUSTY RHODES	_____
NONE OF THE ABOVE	_____
<hr/>	
TOTAL	_____

Total ballots cast from this delegation shall not exceed either:

MyState Delegation Allocation: 24
MyState Currently Credentialed Delegates: 19

7 / 2 / 2006

Delegation Chair

Office Use:

Note: This style of ballot will be used when we are voting for Presidential or Vice-Presidential nominees or LNC candidates.

A different ballot will be used when individual delegates vote to retain or remove individual platform planks. There will be one, perhaps two such ballots. See Convention Rules 7.2, 7.8.



LIBERTARIAN PARTY
NATIONAL CONVENTION
DENVER 2008
Region Formation

For Office Use Only

Pursuant to the Libertarian Party National Bylaws, the delegation chairs of the following affiliates convey to the Secretary their intention to constitute a Single/Multiple Region.

Signatures below:

Printed Name and State:

In addition, the delegates from this region select the following as their Regional Representative(s) and Alternate(s):

Due: May 24, 2008, 5pm to Bob Sullentrup, Convention Secretary

Robert's Rules of Order

www.robertsrules.org



Robert's Rules of Order - Summary Version For Fair and Orderly Meetings & Conventions

Used with the permission of ConstitutionSociety.org

Robert's Rules provides common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. The conduct of ALL business is controlled by the general will of the whole membership - the right of the deliberate majority to decide. Complementary is the right of at least a strong minority to require the majority to be deliberate - to act according to its considered judgment AFTER a full and fair "working through" of the issues involved. Robert's Rules provides for constructive and democratic meetings, to help, not hinder, the business of the assembly. Under no circumstances should "undue strictness" be allowed to intimidate members or limit full participation.

The fundamental right of deliberative assemblies requires all questions to be thoroughly discussed before taking action!

The assembly rules - they have the final say on everything! Silence means consent!

- Obtain the floor (the right to speak) by being the first to stand when the person speaking has finished; state Mr./Madam Chairman. Raising your hand means nothing, and standing while another has the floor is out of order! Must be recognized by the Chair before speaking!
- Debate can not begin until the Chair has stated the motion or resolution and asked "are you ready for the question?" If no one rises, the chair calls for the vote!
- Before the motion is stated by the Chair (the question) members may suggest modification of the motion; the mover can modify as he pleases, or even withdraw the motion without consent of the seconder; if mover modifies, the seconder can withdraw the second.
- The "immediately pending question" is the last question stated by the Chair! Motion/Resolution - Amendment - Motion to Postpone
- The member moving the "immediately pending question" is entitled to preference to the floor!
- No member can speak twice to the same issue until everyone else wishing to speak has spoken to it once!
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair. Remarks must be courteous in language and deportment - avoid all personalities, never allude to others by name or to motives!

- The agenda and all committee reports are merely recommendations! When presented to the assembly and the question is stated, debate begins and changes occur!



The Rules

- **Point of Privilege:** Pertains to noise, personal comfort, etc. - may interrupt only if necessary!
- **Parliamentary Inquiry:** Inquire as to the correct motion - to accomplish a desired result, or raise a point of order
- **Point of Information:** Generally applies to information desired from the speaker: "I should like to ask the (speaker) a question."
- **Orders of the Day (Agenda):** A call to adhere to the agenda (a deviation from the agenda requires Suspending the Rules)
- **Point of Order:** Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made
- **Main Motion:** Brings new business (the next item on the agenda) before the assembly
- **Divide the Question:** Divides a motion into two or more separate motions (must be able to stand on their own)
- **Consider by Paragraph:** Adoption of paper is held until all paragraphs are debated and amended and entire paper is satisfactory; after all paragraphs are considered, the entire paper is then open to amendment, and paragraphs may be further amended. Any Preamble can not be considered until debate on the body of the paper has ceased.
- **Amend:** Inserting or striking out words or paragraphs, or substituting whole paragraphs or resolutions
- **Withdraw/Modify Motion:** Applies only after question is stated; mover can accept an amendment without obtaining the floor
- **Commit /Refer/Recommit to Committee:** State the committee to receive the question or resolution; if no committee exists include size of committee desired and method of selecting the members (election or appointment).
- **Extend Debate:** Applies only to the immediately pending question; extends until a certain time or for a certain period of time
- **Limit Debate:** Closing debate at a certain time, or limiting to a certain period of time
- **Postpone to a Certain Time:** State the time the motion or agenda item will be resumed



- **Object to Consideration:** Objection must be stated before discussion or another motion is stated
- **Lay on the Table:** Temporarily suspends further consideration/action on pending question; may be made after motion to close debate has carried or is pending
- **Take from the Table:** Resumes consideration of item previously "laid on the table" - state the motion to take from the table
- **Reconsider:** Can be made only by one on the prevailing side who has changed position or view
- **Postpone Indefinitely:** Kills the question/resolution for this session - exception: the motion to reconsider can be made this session
- **Previous Question:** Closes debate if successful - may be moved to "**Close Debate**" if preferred
- **Informal Consideration:** Move that the assembly go into "**Committee of the Whole**" - informal debate as if in committee; this committee may limit number or length of speeches or close debate by other means by a 2/3 vote. All votes, however, are formal.
- **Appeal Decision of the Chair:** Appeal for the assembly to decide - must be made before other business is resumed; NOT debatable if relates to decorum, violation of rules or order of business
- **Suspend the Rules:** Allows a violation of the assembly's own rules (except Constitution); the object of the suspension must be specified

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Roberts's Rules of Order Motions Chart

Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

Part 1, Main Motions. These motions are listed in order of precedence. A motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion. § indicates the section from Robert's Rules.							
§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21	Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20	Take break	I move to recess for ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19	Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18	Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17	Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16	Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15	Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14	Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13	Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12	Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11	Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10	Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Part 2, Incidental Motions. No order of precedence. These motions arise incidentally and are decided immediately.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§23	Enforce rules	Point of Order	Yes	No	No	No	None
§24	Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
§25	Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§26	Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
§27	Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§29	Demand a rising vote	I move for a rising vote	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes	No	No	No	None
§33	Request for information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No	None

Part 3, Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly.

No order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else is pending.

§	PURPOSE:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§34	Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§35	Cancel previous action	I move to rescind ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or Majority with notice
§37	Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority