

# CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VENANGO COUNTY

## ARTICLE I. NAME

Pursuant to Article III of the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, this constitution does hereby establish the Venango County Committee of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, hereinafter referred to as the Libertarian Party of Venango County (LPVC).

## ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the LPVC is to proclaim and to implement the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party by engaging in political and educational activities in Venango County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

An individual endorsing the purposes and principles of the National Libertarian Party may become and remain a member in good standing of the LPVC subject to the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules. All members in good standing are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

## ARTICLE IV. ORGANIZATION

### Section 1 - Officers

The officers of the LPVC shall be at a minimum: a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretary/Treasurer. Additional officers may be added by the LPVC as deemed appropriate. All of these officers shall be elected at an Annual meeting of the LPVC by attending members and shall take office immediately upon the close of such meeting.

### Section 2 - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of the LPVC consistent with this Constitution, its Bylaws and its Rules. The Board of Directors of the LPVC shall be composed of the elected officers of the LPVC and the Chair from each of any standing sub-committees.

### Section 3 - Judicial Sub-Committee

An ad hoc Judicial Sub-Committee shall be composed of three members appointed by the Board of Directors. The term of a member of the Judicial Sub-Committee shall run through the period of the next Annual meeting or until a successor is appointed. A member of the Judicial Sub-Committee may not serve as an officer of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania or as a member of the Board of Directors of any County Committee of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania.

The Judicial Sub-Committee shall be the final body of appeal in all matters regarding interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of the LPVC, subject to the provisions that a decision of the Judicial Sub-Committee can be overturned by a three quarters vote of members at the Annual meeting of the LPVC.

## ARTICLE V. ANNUAL MEETING

The LPVC shall hold an Annual meeting to conduct such business as may properly come before it at a time and place to be set according to the Bylaws and in compliance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules. This meeting should occur prior to the Spring meeting of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania.

## ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS

The Bylaws are hereby affixed to and subordinate to the Constitution.

## ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all members in attendance at the Annual meeting of the LPVC.

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY of VENANGO COUNTY BYLAWS

## ARTICLE I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

### Section 1 - Purpose

The purpose of the LPVC is to conduct the following activities consistent with the Statement of Principles:

- Disseminate Libertarian political philosophy;
- Nominating and supporting candidates for countywide and local political office;
- Support statewide Libertarian Party Candidates;
- Support national Libertarian Party Candidates.

### Section 2 - Scope

The LPVC shall conduct its activities primarily within Venango County in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The LPVC may coordinate its efforts with County Committees in neighboring Counties. It may also, with the approval of the state party, organize libertarian activities in those Counties without County Libertarian Committees.

## ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1 - Establishing Membership

Any registered Libertarian who consistently supports LPVC functions, who adheres to the LPVC Constitution, Bylaws and Rules, who adheres to libertarian principles and who generally supports the purposes and principles of the National Libertarian Party shall be considered a member in good standing of the Libertarian Party of Venango County. Any person not registered to vote for any reason or any person registered to vote with an affiliation other than Libertarian but who is otherwise in agreement with Libertarian principles and supports the LPVC may be considered an associate member of the LPVC but shall not be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

### Section 2 - Eligibility for LPVC officers

Any person who is nominated to be an officer of the LPVC must be a member in good standing of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, and a registered Libertarian residing in Venango County.

### Section 3 - Dues

The LPVC intends to operate on voluntary contributions. However, the Board of Directors may from time to time determine the amount of dues necessary for membership in the LPVC, and may determine one or more classes of membership with different amounts of dues for each.

### Section 4 - Termination of Membership

The Board of Directors shall have the power to suspend a member for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board. A member may be suspended "for cause" for misrepresenting the principles of the LPVC, endorsing or campaigning for, in the name of the LPVC, a candidate for public office in opposition to one nominated by the LPVC or by the State or National Libertarian Party, or for running for office purporting to have been nominated or endorsed by the LPVC without having received such nomination or endorsement, or for other reasonable cause.

Notice of suspension is subject to appeal within ten days of notification. Failure to appeal shall terminate membership.

## **Section 5 - Membership Appeal**

Upon appeal by the member, a Judicial Sub-Committee shall be established and hold a hearing concerning the suspension. Following the hearing, the Judicial Sub-Committee shall rule either to terminate the membership of the member or to continue the member in good standing. Should the Judicial Sub-Committee fail to act within any allotted time frames, the member shall continue as a member in good standing of the LPVC.

## **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND DUTIES**

The following Officers, along with the chair(s) of any standing sub-committee(s) shall comprise the Board of Directors.

### **Section 1 - Chair**

The Chair shall preside at all public meetings and at all meetings of the Board of Directors. He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the LPVC.

### **Section 2 - Vice Chair**

The Vice Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair.

### **Section 3 - Secretary**

The Secretary shall take and keep minutes of all LPVC meetings and all meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall maintain current list of all members of the LPVC. This person may be the same as the Treasurer.

### **Section 4 - Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the LPVC under supervision of the Chair and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall compile a quarterly report, which shall consist of a balance sheet and the profit and loss schedule shall be available to members upon request. The Treasurer shall file all required reports on behalf of the LPVC with government agencies.

### **Section 5 - Additional Officers**

The Board of Directors may by majority vote establish new offices and appoint additional Officers to be represented on the Board as deemed appropriate. Such offices may be dissolved by majority vote of the Board.

## **ARTICLE IV. DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Section 1 - Meeting Notification**

The Board of Directors shall meet at such time and place as may be determined by a call of the Chair or by the written request of one third or more members of the Board. A notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be provided to each member of the Board of Directors not less than seven days prior to said meeting.

### **Section 2 - Public Meetings**

The Board shall hold at least four public meetings each year, including the Annual meeting.

### **Section 3 - Suspension**

An officer may be suspended from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The office of a suspended officer shall be declared vacant unless the suspended officer appeals such suspension and requests the establishment of a Judicial Sub-Committee within ten days of notification of suspension.

#### **Section 4 - Appeal**

Upon appeal by the suspended officer, a Judicial Sub-Committee shall be established and shall set the date of a hearing pursuant to the provisions of the Bylaws. Following the hearing, the Judicial Sub-Committee shall rule within three days to either uphold the suspension (thereby vacating the office) or restore the officer to full authority. A failure to rule or proceed within the allotted time frames shall be deemed as restoring the officer to full authority.

#### **Section 5 - Vacancies**

The Board of Directors shall appoint new officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such officers to complete the term of the office vacated.

### **ARTICLE V. THE JUDICIAL SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### **Section 1 – Establishment and Organization**

An ad hoc Judicial Sub-Committee shall be appointed within ten days of appeal or request pursuant to the provisions of the LPVC Constitution. The Judicial Sub-Committee shall immediately elect a chair who shall receive all appeals and petitions and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the Judicial Sub-Committee. The chair shall be allowed seven days from the establishment of the Sub-Committee to set the date of the hearing. This Sub-Committee shall be considered a working Sub-Committee and not represented on the Board.

#### **Section 2 - Hearing Notification**

The Judicial Sub-Committee must provide at least fifteen days notice to each of the interested parties to a hearing unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Sub-Committee and the participants.

#### **Section 3 - Limit**

A hearing must be held within sixty days from the receipt of a request or appeal by the Board of Directors.

#### **Section 4 - Representation**

Each party to a hearing shall have the right to represent his or her interest in the manner of his or her choosing.

#### **Section 5 - Rulings**

The Judicial Committee must provide a ruling within three days of the conclusion of a hearing.

### **ARTICLE VI. OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1 - Standing Sub-Committees**

Standing sub-committees may be established by the Board of Directors to address long-term issues of interest to the LPVC. The duties, composition and reporting requirements shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. Such sub-committees shall appoint a Chair at each Annual meeting, who shall be considered an officer of the Committee and member of the Board of Directors for that year.

#### **Section 2 - Working Sub-Committees**

There may be working sub-committees to address temporary or ad hoc issues established by the Chair as the Board of Directors deems appropriate. Working sub-committees shall exist at the discretion of the Board of Directors and shall not be represented on the Board.

**ARTICLE VII. NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

Candidates for County and local office shall be nominated by the LPVC in consultation with the appropriate Municipal Committees. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for approving all nominations. The Board of Directors shall have the power to nominate candidates for Special Elections, nominate substitute candidates as provided in the State Election Code, and nominate proxy candidates for petitioning purposes.

**ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws unless other procedures are adopted by the Board of Directors.

*Approved  
4-16-2009  
Patti Fryman, Sec.*