

1 **LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO**
2 **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

3 Adopted in Convention, March 3, 2018, Albuquerque, New Mexico
4 ARTICLE I- NAME, PRINCIPLES, PURPOSE, and EMBLEM

5 **1.1 - NAME**

6 (a) The Libertarian Party organization in the State of New Mexico shall be The Libertarian Party
7 of New Mexico and may be referred to in this constitution and other official documents as
8 LPNM.

9 (b) The name of LPNM organizations within each political subdivision or campus shall be The Libertarian
10 Party of _____with the appropriate designation of the county or other appropriate
11 political subdivision, or _____ College Libertarian Club.

12 **1.2 – PRINCIPLES**

13 We, the members of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico advocate the American
14 tradition of limited government and defend the rights of the individual.

15 We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own
16 lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not
17 forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

18 Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle that
19 the state has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor.
20 Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to
21 government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor
22 without their consent.

23 We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that
24 where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual, namely: the
25 right to life - accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against
26 others; the right to liberty of speech and action – accordingly we oppose all attempts by
27 governments to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government
28 censorship in any form; and the right to property – accordingly we oppose all
29 government interference with private property such as confiscation, nationalization, and
30 eminent domain, and support the prohibition of trespass, fraud, and
31 misrepresentation.

32 Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all
33 interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among
34 individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the
35 benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as
36 free traders, and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the
37 protection of individual rights, is the free market.

38 **1.3 - PURPOSE**

39 The purpose of LPNM shall be to move society and public policy toward the ideals
40 embodied in the Statement of Principles by nominating, supporting, and electing

41 candidates for public office; by lobbying officials and governmental bodies; by engaging
42 in educational and informational activities; by general advocacy, and by other means
43 deemed appropriate by LPNM.

44 **1.4 - EMBLEM**

45 The emblem of LPNM and of constituent organizations political subdivisions shall be the
46 Statue of Liberty.

47 **1.5 - USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM**

48 (a) The names “Libertarian Party” and “College Libertarians” shall not be used by any
49 person, group, or convention except in strict conformance with this constitution and the
50 laws of the State of New Mexico.

51 (b) The LPNM Central Committee is empowered to initiate legal action on behalf of
52 LPNM upon determination that any individual, slate of candidates, group, or convention
53 is using the name or emblem of LPNM in any manner not consistent with this
54 constitution or the laws of the State of New Mexico.

55 **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

56 **2.1 - CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF MEMBERS**

57 (a) AFFILIATE MEMBER. An affiliate member is any registered voter within the State of
58 New Mexico who has indicated “Libertarian” as his or her party affiliation on the affidavit
59 of voter registration.

60 (b) CAUCUS Member. A caucus member is any person who has indicated “Libertarian”
61 as his or the New Mexico affidavit of voter registration, has met at least one of the
62 qualifications enumerated in 2.1(b)(1) below, and has signed the non-initiation of force
63 statement, which reads “I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve
64 political or social goals.”.

65 (1) CAUCUS MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS. Only one qualification must be met.

66 (a) WAIVER OF VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT. The Central Committee is
67 empowered to waive the voter registration requirement for any individual who is
68 otherwise qualified as a caucus member but not legally qualified to vote, and who
69 requests such a waiver in writing. However, under no circumstances shall any person
70 who is registered in another party or who has indicated “no party” on the affidavit of
71 voter registration be recognized as a caucus member.

72 (b) SUBSCRIBING MEMBER. A subscribing member is any person who has paid dues
73 to LPNM.

74 (c) SUSTAINING MEMBER. Payment of a monthly pledge of \$10 or more. Donors
75 should indicate that contributions are for membership. Caucus members or subscribing
76 members may be sustaining members. Qualification is enabled when the first monthly
77 pledge is received and will continue until pledges are 90 or more days in arrears.

78 (2) Caucus Members are required to provide the following information for the use of the
79 LPNM for communication purposes: Full mailing address and valid phone number.

80 Caucus members are encouraged to provide a cell phone number for receipt of
81 SMS/TXT messages and a valid email address.

82 (a) A donation of \$10/month via autopay, or \$5/month for students or those that sign a
83 statement of financial hardship.

84 (b) An annual donation of \$100 via cash/check

85 (c) A Life LPNM Caucus membership, or the initiation of a 'Lifetime' LPNM Caucus
86 membership started with a donation of at least \$100 and \$100/month paid toward the
87 total of \$2400.

88 (d) By vote of the Central Committee or Executive Committee in recognition of
89 significant volunteer activity on the behalf of Liberty and the LPNM.

90 (e) LPNM Life Memberships issued prior to 2006 are recognized.

91 **2.2 - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS**

92 (a) Only caucus members shall serve as delegates to state conventions of LPNM. Any
93 caucus member in good standing is automatically a state convention delegate.

94 1. Affiliate members shall have the right to vote on nominating candidates for public
95 office at state conventions.

96 (b) Caucus members shall receive the state newsletter and other such publications and
97 benefits as determined by the Central Committee.

98 (C) As all officers of LPNM and its affiliates, LPNM delegates to national conventions,
99 and LPNM candidates for public office will automatically meet the 2-1-6-1 qualification
100 for caucus membership, all such members must submit the certification that he or she
101 opposes the initiation of force prior to being nominated.

102 (d) As LPNM recognizes Life Memberships, members who became Life Members prior to
103 2006 are exempted from the provisions of 2.1-b-1.

104 **2.3 – MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CAUCUS MEMBERS**

105 The payment or donation for caucus membership is hereby suspended for one year,
106 until the March 2019 LPNM Convention. As such, all Affiliate Members that have signed
107 the Non-Initiation of Force Statement which reads, "I certify that I do not advocate the
108 initiation of force to achieve political or social goals," would qualify as caucus members.

109 (a) Annual membership dues for caucus members may be fixed at any state convention
110 by two thirds vote of the delegates present and voting. When a convention does not fix
111 dues, the amount in effect during the previous year shall continue.

112 (b) Non-Life Caucus memberships will expire on January 1 of each year. Memberships
113 are not pro-rated.

114 **ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

115 **3.1 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

116 (a) COMPOSITION.

117 The Executive Committee shall be composed of the executive officers of LPNM: Chair,
118 Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs and Treasurer. A quorum of the
119 Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the committee.

120 (b) POWERS.

121 The LPNM Executive Committee is empowered to:

- 122 1. Call special conventions to nominate candidates for special elections or for other
123 urgent purposes and to set the date, time, and place for such conventions;
- 124 2. Authorize and electronic meetings of the Central Committee when there exists
125 business of an emergency or urgent nature that cannot wait until the next regular
126 meeting of the Central committee;
- 127 3. Initiate disciplinary proceedings as provided for in this constitution; and
- 128 4. Perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Central Committee or State
129 Convention.

130 (C) QUALIFICATION. To qualify for the Executive Committee, a member must be in
131 good standing at the time of election to Executive Office. Membership is defined in
132 accordance with Section II of the constitution and bylaws.

133 (d) VACANCIES. When the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall
134 automatically become Chair. When other executive offices become vacant, such
135 vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Chair with the advice and consent of the
136 Central Committee. If after four (4) days of notification of the Central Committee via
137 electronic or other communication, the absence of a majority of the Central Committee
138 voting in the negative, such appointment will be deemed valid.

139 **3.2 - CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

140 (a) COMPOSITION. The State Party Central Committee shall be composed of caucus
141 members of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico and comprised of the Executive
142 Committee, six at-large representatives, two representatives from each congressional
143 district, the Chairperson of each County Affiliate, one County At-Large Member residing
144 in said county to be elected by a two thirds majority vote of the County Central
145 Committee or appointed for the full term by a two thirds majority of the State Central
146 Committee in the absence of a County Affiliate, to represent the first 50 or fewer
147 registered Libertarian Party voters in said county, and County Affiliate

148 Member seats to be apportioned within counties having greater than 50 registered
149 Libertarian Party voters within said county after first subtracting 50 voters to account for
150 the County At Large Member seat, such representation to be calculated annually from
151 the Secretary of State voter file, to be elected by a two-thirds majority of the County
152 Affiliate Central Committee or appointed for the full-term by a two-thirds majority vote of
153 the State Central Committee in the absence of a County Affiliate,

154 (b) POWERS. The Central Committee shall manage the affairs of LPNM as provided for
155 in this constitution, the New Mexico Election Code, and acts of the caucus membership
156 assembled in convention.

157 (c) MEETINGS. The Central Committee shall meet a minimum of four times each year.

158 Meetings may be fixed by action of the Committee or call of the Chair. The Secretary
159 shall notify each member of the Central Committee of the date, time and place of
160 meetings, in writing, at least thirty days prior to the meeting except as otherwise
161 provided in Section 3.1(b)2.

162 Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise
163 provided in this constitution or in the LPNM bylaws.

164 (d) QUORUMS. When thirty-days written notice has been properly executed, a quorum
165 of the Central Committee shall consist of at least five Central Committee members, one
166 or more of whom is an Executive Committee Officer. Otherwise, a quorum shall consist
167 of at least seven Central Committee members, one or more of whom is an Executive
168 Officer. Any member who misses two consecutive meetings or any three meetings
169 during his or her term of office is automatically removed from the Committee.

170 (e) VACANCIES. Vacancies on the Central Committee shall be filled by appointment of
171 the Chair with the advice and consent of the Central Committee. Members representing
172 a congressional district must reside in the district they represent.

173 (f) VOTES BY ELECTRONIC MAIL OR TELEPHONE. From time to time, an issue of
174 emergency nature may require vote by electronic mail and/or telephone by the Central
175 Committee. Such a vote can be initiated by one-third of all current Central Committee
176 members, the State Chair, and the vote shall be carried out by the State Chair after it is
177 requested. All efforts should be made to assure maximum Central Committee member
178 participation and debate on the issue being voted on. Additionally, the standard for
179 passage of any proposal voted on by this method shall be a majority of all current
180 Central Committee members voting in favor. If all current Central Committee members
181 participate and the vote is tied, the State Chair may break the tie by voting.

182 **3.3 – JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

183 A Judicial Council may be formed for the purposes of censuring or suspension of any caucus
184 member, removing or impeaching any Central Committee Member or member of the Executive
185 Committee, as well as settle disputes arising from the interpretation of this constitution or acts of
186 the Central Committee.

187 The formation of this judicial council may be triggered by a 1/3 vote of the central
188 committee membership, or any two members of the Executive Committee.

189 The Judicial Council shall consist of five (5) members of the Executive and/or Central
190 Committee in good standing; excluding any parties to the issue to be decided by the
191 Judicial Council.

192 The Judicial Council decision will be delivered to the Central Committee for a
193 confirmation vote; a simple majority vote for questions of interpretation of this
194 constitution; and a 2/3 vote in the case of recommendation of the Judicial Council for
195 censure, suspension, removal, or impeachment of any member.

196 **3.4 - COUNTY AFFILIATES OF LPNM**

197 (a) RECOGNITION. The Libertarian Party of any county shall be recognized when:

198 1. A caucus member, who has been appointed by the State Chair, has assumed the
199 office of County Chair;

- 200 2. A County Central Committee of the County Chair and at least two additional
201 members has been seated;
- 202 3. A constitution, consistent with this constitution and the laws of New Mexico and the
203 United States of America, has been filed with the County Clerk of the respective county;
204 and
- 205 4. The Chair of LPNM has been notified in writing that the above requirements have
206 been met.

207 In counties where there is no Libertarian Party organization, the Chair of LPNM is
208 empowered to appoint, in writing, a caucus member as County Chair. The County Chair
209 is then empowered to appoint two additional members to the County Central
210 Committee, and the County Central Committee is then empowered to adopt a
211 constitution. Within one year of the appointment of the County Chair, the County
212 Libertarian Party shall hold a convention and the county convention shall properly elect
213 officers and ratify the county constitution. If the County Libertarian Party fails to meet
214 the requirements of recognition enumerated above, or fails to hold a county convention
215 within one year of the appointment of the County Chair, the County Chair shall stand
216 removed and the Chair of LPNM is empowered to appoint a new County Chair.

217 (b) ADMINISTRATION, Once a County Libertarian Party is recognized, it shall be
218 administered by the County Central Committee in a manner identical to the
219 administration of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico except that the County Libertarian
220 Party is empowered to determine: the size of its Central Committee, except that it will
221 have a minimum of three members, the number and qualifications of executive officers,
222 except that the County Chair must be a caucus member. County Libertarian Parties
223 shall not have their own Judicial Council: the LPNM Judicial Council shall serve as the
224 judiciary body of the County Libertarian Parties as well as the Libertarian Party of New
225 Mexico.

226 (c) CONSISTENCY OF COUNTY ACTIONS. No County Libertarian Party shall take any
227 position or action which is inconsistent with the constitution, principles, or purposes of
228 the Libertarian Party of New Mexico.

229 **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS 4.1 - ENUMERATION AND** 230 **DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

231 (a) ENUMERATION. The executive officers of LPNM shall be the Chair, Vice Chair,
232 Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs, Secretary, and Treasurer.

233 (b) DUTIES. Any executive officer who fails to execute his or her duties may be
234 impeached and removed as provided in this constitution. The duties of executive
235 officers are:

236 1. CHAIR. The Chair shall serve as the chief administrative officer of LPNM; preside
237 over meetings of the Executive Committee and Central Committee, preside over state
238 conventions, serve as spokesperson for LPNM, and perform such other duties and
239 functions as specified in this constitution or as delegated by the Central Committee.

240 2. VICE CHAIR. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair, assume the duties of the Chair
241 when the Chair is unable to perform such duties, and perform such other duties and

242 functions as delegated by the Chair, the Executive Committee or the Central
243 Committee.

244 3. VICE-CHAIR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS. The Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs will, in addition to
245 general Executive Committee duties, arrange for legal advice to the Executive
246 Committee.

247 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep minutes of Executive Committee and Central
248 Committee meetings, keep minutes of state conventions; initiate such correspondence
249 as directed by the Chair, the Executive Committee, or the Central Committee, and
250 manage all records of LPNM except financial records.

251 5. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall receive monies paid to LPNM, keep and disperse
252 LPNM funds as directed by the Central Committee, keep the financial records of LPNM,
253 make financial reports to the Central Committee, and manage the property of LPNM.

254 **4.2 – ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

255 Executive officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates voting at the first
256 state convention following a regular congressional election. If more than two candidates
257 seek an office and no candidate obtains a majority of the votes, the lowest vote-getter
258 shall be eliminated and Caucus members shall vote again choosing among the
259 remaining candidates. This shall be repeated until a candidate wins a majority of the
260 votes, or if there are two candidates remaining, the highest vote-getter between the two
261 shall be elected. If only two candidates seek an office, the highest vote-getter between
262 the two shall be considered elected. The term of an elected executive officer shall be
263 two years, and no members may serve more than two consecutive terms in a particular
264 executive office. Vacancies of executive office shall be filled in accordance with Section
265 3.1(c) of this constitution.

266 **4.3 - CABINET OFFICERS**

267 The Chair is empowered to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Central
268 Committee, caucus members to positions such as Legislative Liaison, Publications
269 Editor, Project(s) Coordinator(s), or other such cabinet office as deemed appropriate by
270 the Chair.

271 Cabinet officers serve at the pleasure of the Chair and may be removed or replaced at
272 will, or by a majority vote of the Central Committee.

273 **ARTICLE V – CONVENTIONS AND CANDIDATES**

274 **5.1 - CONVENTION DATES**

275 (a) WHEN LPNM IS A MAJOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a
276 major party, LPNM shall hold annual conventions on or about the first weekend in
277 March in even years and as determined by the Central Committee in odd years. Any
278 candidate seeking the Libertarian nomination for public office in the General Election
279 who receives a majority of the votes at the March convention shall be considered
280 endorsed by the party.

281 (b) WHEN LPNM IS A MINOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a
282 minor party, annual conventions shall be held as determined by the Central Committee.

283 **5.2 - NOTICE**

284 The Secretary shall notify each caucus member of the dates, time, and public place of
285 state conventions, and shall cause to be published in newspapers of general circulation
286 notice of state conventions at least fourteen days prior to the date of the convention
287 provided.

288 **5.3 - BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION**

289 Each annual state convention shall include a business meeting. Caucus members in
290 good standing shall be automatic delegates to state convention business meetings and
291 no fee shall be charged to delegates for attending the business meeting portion of state
292 conventions. The Chair of LPNM, or the designee thereof, is empowered to verify the
293 credentials of any delegates. Business meetings shall be conducted according to
294 Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise provided by this constitution and LPNM
295 bylaws.

296 **5.4 - NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES**

297 (a) WHEN LPNM IS A MAJOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a
298 major party, nominations of candidates for public office, presidential electors, and
299 delegates to the national convention of the Libertarian Party shall be made in
300 accordance with the New Mexico Election Code and Primary Law. The New Mexico
301 Election Code and Primary Law is hereby incorporated into this section.

302 (b) WHEN LPNM IS A MINOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is a minor party,
303 nominations of candidates for federal office, statewide office, and offices elected from
304 multi-county districts shall be made by majority vote of the affiliate and caucus members
305 voting at annual conventions, except for special elections in odd-numbered years.
306 Nominations of candidates for offices selected from multi-county districts shall be made
307 by affiliate and caucus members from the counties comprising such districts, in caucus
308 at the state convention. Election of presidential electors and delegates to the national
309 convention shall be by majority vote in even numbered years.

310 (c) COUNTY OFFICE, Nominations of candidates for county office shall be made at the
311 respective county conventions. Organized counties may caucus at the state convention
312 for the purpose of nominating candidates if the county affiliate has not had a convention
313 at the time of the state convention, or to nominate additional candidates if the county
314 affiliate has held a convention, provided that the County Chair is in attendance. Three or
315 more caucus members from any unorganized counties may caucus at the state
316 convention for the purpose of nominating candidates, and the State Chair will certify
317 such candidates in lieu of a county chair.

318 (d) CERTIFICATION AND VACANCIES. Candidates nominated for public office shall be
319 certified in accordance with the provisions of the New Mexico Election Code. The
320 Central Committee is empowered to fill vacancies in the list of federal, statewide, and
321 multi-county district candidates in accordance with the New Mexico Election Code.

323 **5.5 National Conventions**

324 Delegates to the national convention should be persons who have been active in the
325 LPNM in the year prior to selection. National delegates are required to be A) a
326 registered Libertarian as of the date of the governor's proclamation in election years, or
327 on February 1st in non-election years, and B) a caucus member prior to the date of the
328 state convention. Voting at the state convention for national delegates will be by
329 majority vote, with all qualified nominees appearing on the ballot, and votes entered on
330 each ballot up to the number of available slots. In the event an elected national
331 delegate cannot travel to the national convention, the executive committee shall select a
332 replacement.

333

334 **ARTICLE VI - PLATFORMS AND POSITIONS**

335 **6.1- PLATFORMS**

336 (a) LPNM PLATFORM. The Platform of the national Libertarian Party is the Platform of LPNM,
337 except that LPNM may, at any state convention, delete any plank by a two-thirds vote of the
338 delegates voting, or add any plank consistent with the Statement of Principles, by a two thirds
339 vote.

340 (b) CANDIDATE PLATFORMS. Candidates for public office may run on their own
341 platforms. However, the Central Committee may disavow any plank that is contrary to
342 the Statement of Principles or LPNM Platform.

343 (C) RESOLUTIONS OF POSITION. The Central Committee is empowered to issue
344 resolutions expressing party positions on various issues throughout the year. However,
345 any caucus member may challenge any such resolution that he or she believes to be
346 inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or LPNM Platform by filing a Statement of
347 Grievance with the Judicial Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.3(c)5.

348 **ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS**

349 The Statement of Principles may be amended by a nine-tenths vote of the delegates
350 voting at any state convention. This constitution may otherwise be amended by a two-
351 thirds vote of the delegates voting at any state convention. The Judicial Council is
352 empowered to remove any section of this constitution found to be in violation of federal
353 or state law. Bylaws may be added or deleted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates
354 voting at any state convention. The Secretary is empowered to renumber bylaws as
355 bylaws are added or deleted within two days of a state convention.

356 **LPNM BYLAWS**

357 Bylaw #1 – Any Central Committee member may designate, in writing, a caucus serve
358 as proxy if he or she must miss a Central Committee meeting and that proxy counts
359 toward quorum. However, the proxy vote will not count as attendance for purposes of
360 retention or removal of the member.

361 Bylaw #2 - College Libertarian Clubs may be recognized as affiliates of LPNM under the
362 same rules and conditions as county affiliates. The Chair is empowered to implement
363 guidelines for the administration of College Libertarian Clubs.

364 Bylaw #3 – If the boundaries of the congressional districts are changed, Central
365 Committee representatives shall serve the remainder of their terms; and for the purpose
366 of electing Central

367 Committee representatives, the changes shall be recognized by LPNM at the next
368 convention in an odd numbered year following the changes.

369 Bylaw #4 – Should any circumstance or situation arise that is not clearly and directly
370 addressed by this Party constitution and bylaws, then the National Libertarian Party
371 Bylaws and Convention Rules shall govern.

372