LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW MEXICO
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Adopted in Convention, March 3, 2018, Albuquerque, New Mexico

ARTICLE I- NAME, PRINCIPLES, PURPOSE, and EMBLEM

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

(b) The name of LPNM organizations within each political subdivision or campus shall be The Libertarian Party of ______________ with the appropriate designation of the county or other appropriate political subdivision, or ______________ College Libertarian Club.

1.2 – PRINCIPLES
We, the members of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico advocate the American tradition of limited government and defend the rights of the individual.

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

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle that the state has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor.

Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

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

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

1.3 - PURPOSE
The purpose of LPNM shall be to move society and public policy toward the ideals embodied in the Statement of Principles by nominating, supporting, and electing
candidates for public office; by lobbying officials and governmental bodies; by engaging in educational and informational activities; by general advocacy, and by other means deemed appropriate by LPNM.

1.4 - EMBLEM
The emblem of LPNM and of constituent organizations political subdivisions shall be the Statue of Liberty.

1.5 - USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM
(a) The names “Libertarian Party” and “College Libertarians” shall not be used by any person, group, or convention except in strict conformance with this constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico.
(b) The LPNM Central Committee is empowered to initiate legal action on behalf of LPNM upon determination that any individual, slate of candidates, group, or convention is using the name or emblem of LPNM in any manner not consistent with this constitution or the laws of the State of New Mexico.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

2.1 - CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF MEMBERS
(a) AFFILIATE MEMBER. An affiliate member is any registered voter within the State of New Mexico who has indicated “Libertarian” as his or her party affiliation on the affidavit of voter registration.
(b) CAUCUS Member. A caucus member is any person who has indicated “Libertarian” as his or the New Mexico affidavit of voter registration, has met at least one of the qualifications enumerated in 2.1(b)(1) below, and has signed the non-initiation of force statement, which reads “I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.”.
(1) CAUCUS MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS. Only one qualification must be met.
(a) WAIVER OF VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT. The Central Committee is empowered to waive the voter registration requirement for any individual who is otherwise qualified as a caucus member but not legally qualified to vote, and who requests such a waiver in writing. However, under no circumstances shall any person who is registered in another party or who has indicated “no party” on the affidavit of voter registration be recognized as a caucus member.
(b) SUBSCRIBING MEMBER. A subscribing member is any person who has paid dues to LPNM.
(c) SUSTAINING MEMBER. Payment of a monthly pledge of $10 or more. Donors should indicate that contributions are for membership. Caucus members or subscribing members may be sustaining members. Qualification is enabled when the first monthly pledge is received and will continue until pledges are 90 or more days in arrears.
(2) Caucus Members are required to provide the following information for the use of the LPNM for communication purposes: Full mailing address and valid phone number.
Caucus members are encouraged to provide a cell phone number for receipt of SMS/TXT messages and a valid email address.

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

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

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

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

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

2.2 - MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

2.3 – MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR CAUCUS MEMBERS

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

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

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

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

3.1 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

(b) POWERS.
The LPNM Executive Committee is empowered to:
1. Call special conventions to nominate candidates for special elections or for other urgent purposes and to set the date, time, and place for such conventions;
2. Authorize and electronic meetings of the Central Committee when there exists business of an emergency or urgent nature that cannot wait until the next regular meeting of the Central committee;
3. Initiate disciplinary proceedings as provided for in this constitution; and
4. Perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Central Committee or State Convention.

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

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

3.2 - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

(a) COMPOSITION. The State Party Central Committee shall be composed of caucus members of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico and comprised of the Executive Committee, six at-large representatives, two representatives from each congressional district, the Chairperson of each County Affiliate, one County At-Large Member residing in said county to be elected by a two thirds majority vote of the County Central Committee or appointed for the full term by a two thirds majority of the State Central Committee in the absence of a County Affiliate, to represent the first 50 or fewer registered Libertarian Party voters in said county, and County Affiliate Member seats to be apportioned within counties having greater than 50 registered Libertarian Party voters within said county after first subtracting 50 voters to account for the County At Large Member seat, such representation to be calculated annually from the Secretary of State voter file, to be elected by a two-thirds majority of the County Affiliate Central Committee or appointed for the full-term by a two-thirds majority vote of the State Central Committee in the absence of a County Affiliate,

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

(c) MEETINGS. The Central Committee shall meet a minimum of four times each year.
Meetings may be fixed by action of the Committee or call of the Chair. The Secretary shall notify each member of the Central Committee of the date, time and place of meetings, in writing, at least thirty days prior to the meeting except as otherwise provided in Section 3.1(b)2.

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

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

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

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

3.3 – JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

3.4 - COUNTY AFFILIATES OF LPNM

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

1. A caucus member, who has been appointed by the State Chair, has assumed the office of County Chair;
2. A County Central Committee of the County Chair and at least two additional
members has been seated;
3. A constitution, consistent with this constitution and the laws of New Mexico and the
United States of America, has been filed with the County Clerk of the respective county;
and
4. The Chair of LPNM has been notified in writing that the above requirements have
been met.

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

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

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

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS 4.1 - ENUMERATION AND
DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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

2. VICE CHAIR. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair, assume the duties of the Chair
when the Chair is unable to perform such duties, and perform such other duties and
functions as delegated by the Chair, the Executive Committee or the Central Committee.

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

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

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

4.2 – ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

4.3 - CABINET OFFICERS

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

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

ARTICLE V – CONVENTIONS AND CANDIDATES

5.1 - CONVENTION DATES

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

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

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

5.3 - BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION

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

5.4 - NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE VI - PLATFORMS AND POSITIONS

6.1 PLATFORMS

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

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

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

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

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

LPNM BYLAWS

Bylaw #1 – Any Central Committee member may designate, in writing, a caucus serve as proxy if he or she must miss a Central Committee meeting and that proxy counts toward quorum. However, the proxy vote will not count as attendance for purposes of retention or removal of the member.
Bylaw #2 - College Libertarian Clubs may be recognized as affiliates of LPNM under the same rules and conditions as county affiliates. The Chair is empowered to implement guidelines for the administration of College Libertarian Clubs.

Bylaw #3 – If the boundaries of the congressional districts are changed, Central Committee representatives shall serve the remainder of their terms; and for the purpose of electing Central Committee representatives, the changes shall be recognized by LPNM at the next convention in an odd numbered year following the changes.

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