

# Constitution and Bylaws for the Libertarian Party of New Mexico

Adopted in Convention, Jan 6th, 2022, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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## ARTICLE I – NAME

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.

The name of LPNM organizations within each County shall be The Libertarian Party of \_\_\_\_\_ County with the appropriate designation of the county. The name of LPNM organizations on any college or university campus shall be \_\_\_\_\_ College Libertarian Club.

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## ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

To advance policy toward the ideals embodied in the Statement of Principles by:

- Nominating, supporting, and electing candidates for public office;
- Lobbying officials and governmental bodies;
- Engaging in educational and advocacy; and
- Other means deemed appropriate by LPNM.

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## ARTICLE III – 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 the government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

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

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

## 38 **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

### 39 **1. CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF MEMBERSHIPS**

40 a. **AFFILIATE MEMBER.** An Affiliate Member is any registered voter within the State of New  
41 Mexico who has indicated “Libertarian” as their party affiliation, on their voter registration

42 i. **WAIVER OF VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT.** The Central Committee is  
43 empowered to waive the voter registration requirement for any individual who is otherwise  
44 qualified as a caucus member but not legally qualified to vote (due to age, felony status, etc), and  
45 who request such a waiver in writing. However, under no circumstances shall any person who is  
46 registered in another party or who has indicated “no party” on the affidavit of voter registration  
47 be recognized as a caucus member.

48 b. **CAUCUS MEMBER.** A Caucus Member is any Affiliate Member who has signed the non-  
49 initiation of force statement, which reads “I certify that I do not advocate the initiation of force to  
50 achieve political or social goals,” and has met one of the membership dues qualifications enumerated  
51 within the LPNM bylaws.

52 i. Caucus Members are required to provide the following information for the use of  
53 LPNM for communication purposes: full mailing address, valid phone number, valid email  
54 address and/or a valid cell phone number that can receive SMS/text messages, AND consent to  
55 receive communication via those means. This information is only to be used for official LPNM  
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57 business and communication, and is not to be shared, sold or disseminated outside of the  
58 executive committee and those sub-committees that have a legitimate need for such information.

## 59 2. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS

60 a. DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTION. In order to serve as a delegate to the annual state  
61 convention of LPNM, all Caucus Memberships must be in place 30 days prior to the Convention date, to  
62 allow for the Secretary to validate memberships. All Caucus Members in good standing meeting this  
63 requirement are automatically qualified to serve as state convention delegates.

64 b. Affiliate Members shall have the right to vote on approval of candidates for public office at  
65 state conventions and in LPNM primary elections.

## 66 ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

### 67 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

68 a. COMPOSITION. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Executive Officers of  
69 LPNM: Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. A quorum of the  
70 Executive Committee shall consist of a majority of the committee.

71 b. POWERS. The Executive Committee is empowered to:

- 72 i. Carry out the day-to-day operations of the LPNM;
- 73 ii. Call special conventions to nominate candidates for special elections  
74 or for other urgent purposes, and to set the date, time, and place for such conventions;
- 75 iii. Initiate any special or extraordinary meetings of the Central Committee when  
76 there exists business of an urgent or emergent nature; and
- 77 iv. Initiate sessions of the Judicial Council as needed.

78 c. QUALIFICATION. Executive Committee candidates and appointees must have met  
79 the requirements for Caucus membership 60 days prior to their election or appointment..

80 d. VACANCIES. When the office of Chair becomes vacant, the First Vice-Chair shall  
81 become Chair. When other executive offices become vacant, such vacancy shall be  
82 filled by appointment of the Chair with the advice and consent of the Central Committee.

### 83 2. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

84 a. COMPOSITION. The LPNM Central Committee shall be composed of the Executive  
85 Committee, nine statewide at-large representatives, one representative from each  
86 congressional district, county chair's, and additional at-large members from the various

87 counties. The election or appointment to the Central Committee will be confirmed by  
88 their attendance at the next regularly-scheduled quarterly Central Committee meeting.

89 b. **ADVICE & CONSENT.** When the Central Committee shall have power of advice and  
90 consent, the Committee shall have four (4) days after notification to vote. Absent a  
91 majority of the Central Committee voting in the negative, approval and consent shall be  
92 deemed granted.

93 c. **ELECTIONS AND DESIGNATIONS.** Statewide at-large representatives shall be  
94 elected by a vote of all qualified convention delegates for terms of one year at each  
95 annual LPNM state convention. Congressional district representatives shall be elected  
96 by a vote of all qualified convention delegates from their respective districts for terms  
97 of one year at each annual LPNM convention.

98 i. If the boundaries of the congressional districts are changed, replacement  
99 Central Committee members affected by this change will be selected by the  
100 Executive Committee, As per Article V, Section 2.b, in the absence of the  
101 presence of a veto by the Central Committee. Each county may designate  
102 qualified caucus members of their county as members of the State Central  
103 Committee: Chairperson of each County Affiliate, two at-large Members,  
104 and one additional at-large Member for each 250 registered Libertarian  
105 voters in that county, to be calculated annually from the Secretary of State  
106 voter file on or about 1 January of each year.

107 d. **POWERS.** The Central Committee shall manage the affairs of LPNM as provided for  
108 in this constitution, the New Mexico Election Code, and acts of the caucus membership  
109 assembled in convention.

110 e. **MEETINGS.** The Central Committee shall meet a minimum of four times each year.  
111 The Secretary shall notify each member of the Central Committee of the date, time, and  
112 place of meetings, in writing, at least thirty days prior to the meeting, except as  
113 otherwise provided in Section 5.1(b). Meetings shall be conducted according to  
114 Robert's Rule of Order, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or LPNM  
115 bylaws.

116 f. **QUORUMS.** When thirty days written notice has been properly provided, a quorum of  
117 the Central Committee shall consist of at least twenty-five percent of the Central

118 Committee members, one or more of whom is also a member of the Executive  
119 Committee. An issue of emergency nature, may require vote by email, telephone,  
120 and/or other electronic means by the Central Committee. Such a meeting may be  
121 initiated by one-third of current Central Committee members, the LPNM Chair, or any  
122 two Executive Committee members. All efforts should be made to assure maximum  
123 Central Committee member participation in any such meeting. Any proposal voted on  
124 by this method shall be passed by a majority of all current Central Committee members  
125 voting in favor. If the vote is tied, the Chair may break the tie.

- 126 g. MISSED MEETINGS. Any Central Committee member who misses two consecutive  
127 meetings during their term of office is automatically removed from the Committee.
- 128 h. VACANCIES. Vacancies on the Central Committee shall be filled by appointment of  
129 the Chair with the advice and consent of the Central Committee. Members representing  
130 a congressional district must reside in the district they represent. A Libertarian Caucus  
131 member may elect to be a member of any County Affiliate in the state, irrespective of  
132 where they reside..

### 133 3. JUDICIAL COUNCIL

- 134 a. A Judicial Council may be formed for the purposes of censuring or suspension of any caucus  
135 member, removing or impeaching any Central Committee Member or member of the Executive  
136 Committee, as well as settle disputes arising from the interpretation of this Constitution or acts of  
137 the Central Committee or Executive Committee. Formation of this judicial council may be  
138 triggered by a 1/3 vote of the Central Committee membership, or any two members of the  
139 Executive Committee.
- 140 b. COMPOSITION. The Judicial Council shall consist of five (5) members of the Executive and/or  
141 Central Committee in good standing; excluding any parties to the issue to be decided by the  
142 Judicial Council, two of which will be chosen by the State Chair. If the State Chair is party to the  
143 issue before the Judicial Council, the First Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair in connection with the  
144 issue before the Judicial Council. If both the Chair and First Vice-Chair are party to the issue  
145 before the Judicial Council, the Second Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair in connection with the  
146 issue before the Judicial Council. If the Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair are all  
147 parties to the issue before the Judicial Council, then the Secretary shall serve as Chair in  
148 connection with the issue before the Judicial Council. If all members of the Executive

149 Committee except the Treasurer are party to the issue before the Judicial Council, then the  
150 Treasurer shall serve as Chair in connection with the issue before the Judicial Council. The  
151 subsequent balance of the Judicial Council shall be chosen by the Central Committee.

- 152 c. DECISIONS. The Judicial Council decision will be delivered to the Central Committee for a  
153 confirmation vote: a simple majority vote for questions of interpretation of this constitution, and  
154 a two-thirds vote in the case of recommendation of the Judicial Council for censure, suspension,  
155 removal, or impeachment of any member.

#### 156 4. COUNTY AFFILIATES

- 157 a. In the absence of a County Affiliate, the Executive Committee Chair may appoint a County  
158 Affiliate Chair Pro Tem and a County At-Large Member to serve until a County Convention is  
159 held or a one-year term is served.
- 160 b. Within one year of the appointment of the County Chair, the County Libertarian Party Affiliate  
161 shall hold a convention and the county convention shall properly elect officers and ratify the  
162 county constitution. If the County Libertarian Party Affiliate fails to meet the requirements listed  
163 above the County Chair shall stand removed and the Chair of LPNM is empowered to appoint a  
164 new County Chair.
- 165 c. RECOGNITION. The Libertarian Party of any county shall be recognized when:
- 166 i. A caucus member, who has been appointed by the State Chair, has assumed the office of  
167 County Chair;
  - 168 ii. A County Central Committee of the County Chair and at least two additional members has  
169 been seated;
  - 170 iii. A constitution, consistent with this constitution and the laws of New Mexico and the United  
171 States of America, has been filed with the County Clerk of the respective county; AND
  - 172 iv. The Chair of LPNM has been notified in writing that the above requirements have been met,  
173 with the contact information for each County Central Committee member.
- 174 d. ADMINISTRATION. Once a County Affiliate is recognized, it shall be administered by the  
175 County Central Committee in a manner identical to the administration of the LPNM except that  
176 the County Libertarian Party is empowered to determine:
- 177 i. The size of its Central Committee, except that it will be a minimum of three members,
  - 178 ii. The number and qualifications of executive officers, except that the County Central  
179 Committee members must be Caucus Members.

- 180 e. County Affiliates shall not have their own Judicial Council. The LPNM Judicial Council shall  
181 serve as the judicial body of the County Affiliates as well as the LPNM.  
182 f. CONSISTENCY OF COUNTY ACTIONS. No County Affiliate shall take any position or action  
183 which is inconsistent with the constitution, principles, or purposes of the LPNM.

## 184 ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

185 ENUMERATION. The executive officers of LPNM shall be those who compose the Executive  
186 Committee as provided in Section 5.1(a): the Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and  
187 Treasurer.

188 DUTIES. Any executive officer who fails to execute their duties may be impeached and removed as  
189 provided in this constitution. The duties of executive officers are, at minimum, as stated below:

- 190 a) CHAIR. The Chair shall serve as the chief administrative officer of LPNM;  
191 b) FIRST VICE-CHAIR. The First Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair and assume the duties of the  
192 Chair when the Chair is unable to perform such duties; the First Vice-Chair shall also be  
193 responsible for coordinating the planning of Executive Committee, Central Committee meetings,  
194 and other official meetings as needed;  
195 c) SECOND VICE-CHAIR. The Second Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair and First Vice-Chair, and  
196 assume the duties of either in the event they are unable to perform such duties. The Second Vice-  
197 Chair shall also be responsible for organizing and coordinating outreach events.  
198 d) SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep minutes of Executive Committee and Central  
199 Committee meetings, keep minutes of State Conventions, manage all records of LPNM except  
200 financial records, and manage all official LPNM correspondence; AND  
201 e) TREASURER. The Treasurer shall manage the monies of LPNM, produce at least quarterly  
202 reports on the finances of the LPNM to the Executive Committee and Central Committee, and  
203 manage the property of LPNM.

204 3. ELECTION AND TERMS. Executive officers shall be elected by the delegates voting at the first state  
205 convention following a regular congressional election. Voting shall be taken by ranked-choice voting, as  
206 defined in the appendix to this constitution. If the vote results in a tie, the candidates shall participate in  
207 further debate, and the vote shall be taken again. If the second vote also results in a tie, it shall be settled  
208 by coin toss, or similar game of chance. The term of an elected executive officer shall be two years.

209 4. MEETINGS. The Executive Committee shall meet, either in-person, or by teleconference, no less  
210 than once per month. Failure to attend two consecutive Executive Committee meetings, without prior

211 notice to and excusal by the Chair, shall constitute an effective resignation from the Executive  
212 Committee.

213 5. CABINET OFFICERS. The Chair is empowered to appoint and remove caucus members to positions  
214 of cabinet officers.

## 215 ARTICLE VII – CONVENTIONS AND CANDIDATES

### 216 1. CONVENTION DATES

- 217 a. WHEN LPNM IS A MAJOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a  
218 major party, LPNM shall hold annual conventions on or about the first weekend in March  
219 in even years and as determined by the Central Committee in odd years.
- 220 b. WHEN LPNM IS A MINOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a  
221 minor party, annual conventions shall be held as determined by the Central Committee.

222 2. NOTICE. The Secretary shall notify each caucus member of the dates, time, and public place of state  
223 conventions, and shall cause to be published on the LPNM web page notice of state conventions at least  
224 thirty days prior to the date of the convention provided. This notice shall include the information that all  
225 caucus members must be in good standing 30 days prior to the convention, to allow the Secretary to  
226 validate the qualifications of the delegates.

227 3. BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION. Each annual state convention shall include a business meeting.  
228 Caucus members in good standing shall be automatic delegates to state convention business meetings.  
229 The Chair of LPNM, or the designee thereof, is empowered to verify the credentials of any delegates.  
230 Business meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order except as otherwise  
231 provided by this constitution and LPNM bylaws.

### 232 4. NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

- 233 a. WHEN LPNM IS A MAJOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is qualified as a  
234 major party, nominations of candidates for public office, presidential electors, and  
235 delegates to the national convention of the Libertarian Party shall be made in accordance  
236 with the New Mexico Election Code and Primary Law. The New Mexico Election Code  
237 and Primary Law is hereby incorporated into this section.
- 238 b. WHEN LPNM IS A MINOR PARTY. In election cycles when LPNM is a minor party,  
239 nominations of candidates for federal office, statewide office, and offices elected from  
240 multi-county districts shall be made by majority vote of the affiliate and caucus members  
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242 voting at annual conventions, except for special elections in odd-numbered years.

243 Nominations of candidates for offices selected from multi-county districts shall be made  
244 by affiliate and caucus members from the counties comprising such districts, in caucus at  
245 the state convention.

- 246 c. CERTIFICATION AND VACANCIES. Candidates nominated for public office shall be  
247 certified in accordance with the provisions of the New Mexico Election Code. The  
248 Central Committee is empowered to fill vacancies in the list of federal, statewide, and  
249 multi-county district candidates in accordance with the New Mexico Election Code.

## 250 5. DELEGATES TO THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION

- 251 a. In order to serve as a delegate from LPNM to the National Convention of the Libertarian  
252 Party, an individual must be a member of the Executive Committee, a member of the  
253 Central Committee, or a caucus member in good standing for 120 days preceding the  
254 State Convention at which the delegate is elected to serve at the National Convention. In  
255 the case of caucus members, the individual must have also provided 12 hours of  
256 volunteer service to LPNM in the 12 months preceding the State Convention. The  
257 Secretary shall maintain records of volunteer hours served by caucus members. These  
258 requirements may be waived for a particular candidate on a two-thirds vote of the State  
259 Convention. The 2022 LPNM Convention shall be prorated to only require 2 hours of  
260 volunteer service.
- 261 b. Voting at the state convention for national delegates will be by block vote, with all  
262 qualified nominees appearing on the ballot, and votes entered on each ballot up to the  
263 number of available slots. In the event an elected national delegate cannot travel to the  
264 national convention, the delegate must notify the executive committee two weeks in  
265 advance of the date of convention, the Chair shall select a replacement.
- 266 c. On the opening day of the national convention, in the event that not all of the delegate  
267 slots are filled by New Mexico caucus members, the chair of the delegation to the  
268 national convention may fill the delegation with delegates from other states.

## 269 ARTICLE VIII – PLATFORMS AND POSITIONS

270 LPNM hereby adopts the platform of the National Libertarian Party. LPNM may also maintain its own  
271 platform. The platform of LPNM may be amended, including by the addition or deletion of individual  
272 planks, by a two-thirds vote of the LPNM Central Committee. Proposed amendments to the LPNM

273 Platform must be circulated to the members of the Central Committee for review at least fifteen days  
274 before the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered.

## 275 **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS**

### 276 **1. PROVISION FOR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITION OF BYLAWS.**

- 277 a. The Statement of Principles may be amended by a nine-tenths vote of the delegates  
278 voting at any state convention. This Constitution and Bylaws may otherwise be  
279 amended by a two-thirds vote of the delegates voting at any state convention.
- 280 b. Bylaws may be added or deleted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates voting at any  
281 state convention.
- 282 c. The Judicial Council is empowered to remove any section of this constitution found  
283 to be in violation of federal or state law.
- 284 d. The Secretary is empowered to renumber this document as needed.

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

## 287 **BYLAWS**

### 288 **1. CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP DUES QUALIFICATIONS.**

- 289 a) Dues are \$72/year unless the caucus member is a paid up member of the National  
290 Libertarian Party, in which case the dues are \$60/year. The dues must be paid  
291 between the close of the prior convention and 30 days prior to the upcoming  
292 convention.
- 293 b) The Convention, the Central Committee, or a unanimous vote of the Executive  
294 Committee, may waive any or all of the required payments in recognition of  
295 significant work performed for the benefit of the LPNM; including granting Lifetime  
296 Caucus Membership for extraordinary effort on behalf of the LPNM;
- 297 c). Lifetime memberships in LPNM may be awarded for donations totaling \$1500 within  
298 a 12-month period.
  - 299 i. LPNM Lifetime Memberships prior to 2006 are recognized. The LPNM Secretary  
300 is to keep a record of all Lifetime Memberships.  
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303           ii.    Individuals who have made donations sufficient to qualify for lifetime  
304                   membership shall only be deemed members of LPNM during those times that  
305                   they are registered as Libertarian with the Secretary of State, unless a vote of the  
306                   Central Committee excuses their lack of registration.

307           d). The LPNM shall not nominate or endorse any non-presidential candidate who is not a  
308           registered Libertarian voter in the State of New Mexico

## 309   2. RULES FOR MEETINGS OF THE LPNM

310   The Chair may direct the Secretary, or in the absence of the Secretary, another member of the executive  
311   Committee, to call the quorum at any time during an LPNM Convention, Central Committee in meeting,  
312   or Executive Committee meeting.

## 313   APPENDIX

314   RANKED-CHOICE VOTING: When these Constitution and By-laws provide that any vote shall be  
315   taken by ranked-choice voting, each member participating in the vote shall be given the opportunity to  
316   rank the candidates for the position at issue in order of preference. Votes shall then be tallied based upon  
317   all first-choice votes. If one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, that candidate shall be  
318   declared the winner. If, however, none of the candidates receives a majority of the votes, the votes cast  
319   for the candidate with the least number of votes shall be re-distributed to the voters' second-choice  
320   candidates. If one candidate then has a majority of the votes cast, that candidate shall be declared the  
321   winner. If not, the votes for the candidate who then has the least number of votes shall be redistributed  
322   to those voters' next-choice candidates. The process shall repeat until one candidate receives a majority  
323   of all votes cast, at which point that candidate shall be declared the winner.  
324