

Bylaws of the Tarrant County Libertarian Party

Article I - Organization Name

The name of this organization shall be the **Tarrant County Libertarian Party**, hereinafter referred to as the **TCLP**. The TCLP is a duly organized affiliate of the **Libertarian Party of Texas**, hereinafter referred to as **LPTexas**.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the TCLP is to recruit and support candidates for public office affiliated with the TCLP and promote the Statement of Principles of LPTexas.

Article III - Membership

A Voting Member of the TCLP is defined as any member of LPTexas, as defined by the bylaws of LPTexas and the Texas Election Code, who is eligible to vote in Tarrant County elections.

Article IV - Party Organization

IV.a. County Executive Committee

The authority to conduct the business of the TCLP is vested in a County Executive Committee, hereinafter referred to as the TCLPEC.

IV.a.1 Composition

The TCLPEC shall be comprised of the following officers:

- i. A County Chair
- ii. A Vice Chair
- iii. A Secretary
- iv. A Treasurer

And the following additional members:

- v. A Past Chair
- vi. Up to four (4) at-large Directors

IV.a.2 Terms of Office

The term of office of the members of the TCLPEC shall begin after the adjournment of the meeting or County Convention in which they were elected or appointed, and shall end at the adjournment of the next County Convention, unless they:

- Resign
- Are no longer eligible to serve as members of the TCLPEC, or;
- Are removed for cause or absence.

IV.a.3 Eligibility for the TCLPEC

- i. All persons wishing to serve on the TCLPEC must be Voting Members of the TCLP.
- ii. To be eligible to be Past Chair, the Voting Member must have previously been a County Chair of TCLP and must not have been removed from the County Chair office for cause.

IV.a.4 Method of Selection

- i. The County Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote at the TCLP County Convention.
- ii. The Past Chair shall be filled by the County Chair of the prior term, if eligible. If the County Chair of the prior term is ineligible, this position shall be considered vacant.
- iii. The at-large Directors shall be appointed by majority vote of the TCLPEC.

IV.a.5 Duties

- i. The County Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the TCLPEC and the chief executive officer of the TCLP, and shall perform such duties as usually pertains to the office of chair.
- ii. The Vice Chair shall act as the assistant to the County Chair and shall perform the duties of the County Chair in his or her absence. If the position of County Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the County Chair for either the duration of the term or until a new County Chair is elected. The Vice Chair may also be called upon, at the request of the County Chair, to fulfill the duties of the Treasurer or Secretary in the absence of either officer or in the event of a vacancy in the offices of Treasurer or Secretary. The Vice Chair shall also perform such duties as usually pertains to the office of vice chair.
- iii. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record (minutes) of the proceedings of all official meetings of the TCLP and the TCLPEC. Records shall be kept up to date and in order in a master file. The Secretary shall also keep a list of members with dates of the affiliation, as required by law, and perform other duties as usually pertains to the office of secretary.
- iv. The Treasurer, or Treasurer's designated agent, shall receive, hold, disburse and account for the TCLP funds held at any financial institution. The Treasurer shall keep these records up to date and organized in a master file on a monthly basis.
- v. Past Chair: The Past Chair shall advise the County Chair and the TCLPEC and help to preserve the continuity of the TCLP.
- vi. At-large directors: Each at-large Director shall have such duties as assigned by the TCLPEC.

IV.a.6 Removal from Office

i. Any member of the TCLPEC, including County Chair, can be removed from office due to absence for failing to attend a business meeting in two (2) consecutive quarters by a 2/3rds vote of all other current members of the TCLPEC.

ii. Any member of the TCLPEC, including County Chair, can be removed from office for cause by a 2/3rds vote of all other members of the TCLPEC.

IV.a.7 Vacancies

i. In the event of a vacancy of any at-large Director or the Past Chair position, the TCLPEC may appoint an eligible replacement by majority vote of all current members of the TCLPEC.

ii. In the event of a vacancy of the offices of Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the TCLPEC may, on majority vote of current TCLPEC members, appoint an eligible Voting Member to the office on an interim basis. Once appointed, the interim officer shall have full rights and duties of the office until either their term expires or until a special meeting of the TCLP called to fill vacancies has established quorum.

iii. The County Chair, or the Vice Chair acting as the County Chair if the County Chair office is vacant, may call a special meeting of the TCLP to fill vacancies of the elected officers of the TCLPEC.

iv. If the County Chair or Vice Chair offices are both vacant, or the County Chair office becomes vacant while a person is serving as interim Vice Chair, the remaining TCLPEC members must consult with LPTexas to arrange for LPTexas to appoint a new temporary County Chair. The County Chair appointed by LPTexas shall serve as County Chair until the end of the term as if they were elected by County Convention or a special meeting of TCLPEC.

IV.a.6 Subcommittees

i. The TCLPEC may establish subcommittees as it deems appropriate to assist it in carrying out its non-statutory duties.

ii. The TCLPEC may appoint to a subcommittee persons who are not members of either the TCLPEC or of the TCLP.

iii. No action of a subcommittee shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the TCLPEC at its subsequent meetings.

IV.b Spending Authority

1. With the exception of IV.b(2), all uses of TCLP funds must be approved by a majority vote of the TCLPEC.

2. In the event that funds are necessary for regularly expected expenditures or needed immediately for TCLP business matters, the Treasurer, Secretary or County Chair are authorized to spend up to \$300 in total for the current quarter the expenses are incurred for these matters. Communication must be sent out to all members of the TCLPEC via email within 48 hours of such an expenditure detailing the amount spent and reason, and a receipt must be provided at the next TCLPEC business meeting.

IV.c Precinct Chairs

1. For precincts without an elected Precinct Chair, Precinct Chairs may be appointed or removed by the TCLPEC by a majority vote.

2. Precinct Chairs are subject to eligibility requirements as stipulated in the Texas Election Code.

3. The TCLPEC may not remove an elected Precinct Chair.

IV.d Meetings

IV.d.1 Business meetings of the TCLPEC

i. The County Chair shall arrange for at least one business meeting of the TCLPEC to be conducted in each quarter.

ii. Either the County Chair or two (2) other members of the TCLPEC may call a business meeting of the TCLPEC by sending notice to all members of the TCLPEC pursuant to the communication policy of the TCLPEC at least 10 days prior to the meeting date.

iii. A majority of the current members of the TCLPEC are required to be in attendance for the TCLPEC to conduct business.

iv. With the exception of the County Chair, each member of the TCLPEC shall have a single vote. The County Chair shall vote to break a tie.

v. Meetings can be held in person, by telephone conference, or by Internet videoconference. Members of the TCLPEC may object to a telephone conference

or Internet videoconference, in which case the member(s) calling the meeting must select a different venue. Members of the TCLPEC may not object to an in-person meeting.

vi. All meetings are open to the public and will be posted in an area accessible to the public pursuant to the communication policy of the TCLPEC.

IV.d.2 Special Meetings of the TCLP

i. The County Chair may call a special meeting of the TCLP by notifying all Voting Members of the TCLP pursuant to the communication policy of the TCLPEC at least 14 days in advance of the meeting date.

ii. The only business that a special meeting of the TCLP may conduct are the selection of officers to fill vacancies, or to amend the bylaws of TCLP.

iii. The officers of the TCLPEC shall conduct the special meeting as if it were a business meeting of the TCLPEC, except that all Voting Members of the TCLP shall participate with full rights.

iv. A member of the TCLPEC must verify the status of the Voting Members of the TCLP in attendance, and shall report that the Voting Members have been credentialed and report the numbers required for quorum.

v. A special meeting called to fill vacancies in the TCLP must include in its agenda the election of all vacant offices and all offices currently held by interim appointees.

vi. If the special meeting was called to fill vacancies in the TCLPEC, and the County Chair is one of those vacancies, it shall be considered to be out of order to adjourn the special meeting until a County Chair is successfully elected.

IV.e Policies

1. The TCLPEC shall maintain standing policies for the operations of the TCLPEC and the day to day operations of the TCLP in a policy manual.
2. All policies of the TCLPEC are considered perpetual and do not expire.
3. The TCLPEC may amend the policies of the TCLPEC at any time by majority vote.
4. The TCLPEC shall include in the policy manual a communication policy, describing how the TCLPEC shall communicate with the TCLPEC, the TCLP Voting Members, and the public at large; this shall include, but not be limited to, notification of regular and special meetings, posting of meetings, and changes in TCLPEC membership.
5. Voting Members of the TCLP shall be notified by the TCLPEC pursuant to the communication policy of the TCLPEC when the policies of the TCLPEC change.

ARTICLE V - Severability

If any portion of these Bylaws are held to be invalid or void by a court of competent jurisdiction or by action of LPTexas, the remaining portions shall remain in effect.

Article VI - Parliamentary Authority

The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the only Parliamentary Authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII - Amendment to these Bylaws

VII.a Methods of amendment

These bylaws may be amended either at a regular County Convention or at a special meeting of TCLP.

VII.b Amending via special meeting

1. The text of all amendments to the Bylaws presented to the TCLP members during a special meeting shall be posted pursuant to the communication policy of the TCLPEC.
2. The TCLPEC shall notify the TCLP Voting Members according to the communications policy with the text of the amendments.
3. The posting and notification shall be given at least ten (10) days before the special meeting in which the amendments are to be considered.
4. A two-thirds majority is required to adopt any amendment to the Bylaws via special meeting.

Article VIII - Matters pertaining to elections

a. In any matter where the election of an individual to a position, including, but not limited to, officer of the TCLPEC or delegate to the State Convention is involved, NOTA or a functional equivalent shall be an option.

b. Any election held where NOTA is not an option shall be considered void, and thus a failed election.

c. In any election where NOTA defeats all other candidates the office or position shall be considered vacant. Such an election is considered a failed election.

d. If an election fails, the body conducting the election may move to repeat the nomination and election process for the position under consideration. This shall have no effect on any other successful election.

Article IX - Conventions

IX.a Timing of Conventions

Precinct and County Conventions shall be held biannually in accordance with the bylaws of LPTexas and the Texas Election Code.

IX.b Election of TCLPEC officers and delegates required

1. The Convention agenda must include election of officers to the TCLPEC and election of delegates to the State and District Conventions.

2. A motion to adjourn shall be considered to be out of order until an election of officers for the TCLPEC and elections for delegates to the District and State Conventions have occurred, and at a minimum the County Chair of the TCLPEC has been successfully elected.

3. The election of officers to the TCLPEC must occur before selection of delegates to the State Convention.

IX.c Contacting delegates after the convention

1. The TCLPEC, or a designee of the TCLPEC assigned to credential delegates for the County Convention, shall collect the email addresses of all delegates so credentialed.

2. Any delegate has the right to refuse to provide their email address to the TCLP or TCLPEC.

3. The email addresses shall be included in the credentials report submitted to the County Convention.

4. Upon adjournment of the County Convention, the TCLPEC shall, within 45 days of said adjournment, notify all persons identified in the credentials report via email, the following documents:

- The current bylaws of the TCLP.
- The current members of the TCLPEC.
- The current communication policy of the TCLPEC.
- The minutes of the County Convention.

5. The TCLPEC may make the documents available via a link to an internet resource, so long as:

- The link is directly accessible to all delegates, without additional registration or other action required by the delegate.
- The link remains valid for at least 90 days after the notification is sent to the delegates.

IX.d Election of Delegates

IX.d.1 Eligibility

All delegates must be Voting Members of the TCLP.

IX.d.2 General Provisions

The election of delegates to the District Conventions must be conducted separately from election of delegates to the State Convention.

IX.d.3 Titles allowed on ballots

Candidates to be a delegate may list their current or former TCLPEC, LPTexas or Libertarian National Committee (LNC) title on any printed ballots.

IX.d.4 Election of delegates to District Conventions

- i. There shall be no limit on the number of delegates elected to District Conventions.
- ii. Delegates may be elected to more than one District Convention.

iii. The County Convention shall select the manner in which all delegates are selected to District Conventions, so long as such election is held in accordance with these Bylaws.

IX.d.5 Election of delegates to the State Convention

- i. LPTexas determines the number of delegates to the State Convention.
- ii. The TCLP officers elected by the County Convention have the right to be primary delegates to the State Convention.
- iii. If an officer elected to the TCLPEC by the County Convention declines to exercise their right to be a delegate to the State Convention prior to election of the remaining delegates, their replacement delegate shall be included in the election of the remainder of the primary delegates.
- iii. The County Convention shall select the manner in which the remainder of the delegates are elected, so long as such election is held in accordance with these Bylaws.
- iv. When LPTexas allows alternate delegates to the State Convention, such delegates shall be assigned a numerical order of precedence.

Article X - Filling Vacancies in the LPTexas State Executive Committee

X.a General Provisions

Per the bylaws of LPTexas, the State Executive Committee (also referred to as SLEC) consists of 2 District Representatives per Senate district of the state of Texas. When a vacancy arises in one or more of these seats, LPTexas has granted its county affiliates both the authority and responsibility to both nominate and approve nominees according to the rules set forth in the LPTexas bylaws. This article contains the provisions for the TCLP to participate in this process.

X.b Eligibility

1. The TCLPEC may only submit and approve nominees who are eligible to serve on the Executive Committee of LPTexas per its bylaws.
2. The TCLPEC may only submit nominees to LPTexas who are current Voting Members of the TCLP.

X.c Nominating SLEC members

1. Any Voting Member of the TCLP that resides in the Texas Senate District where the vacancy resides may nominate an eligible Voting Member (as per LPTexas bylaws) to fill a SLEC vacancy.
2. The Voting Member shall submit the nomination to the County Chair.
3. Once the County Chair has received a nomination, the County Chair shall place the nomination on the agenda to be considered at the next regular business meeting.
4. The County Chair may consider the nomination at a special meeting of the TCLPEC before the next regular meeting.
5. If the nomination is given to the County Chair after the State Chair of LPTexas sets the date for nominations to close, the County Chair shall ensure that the nomination is considered by the TCLPEC prior to the closure of the nomination window, unless otherwise prohibited by these Bylaws.
6. The TCLPEC shall consider the nomination as a resolution. The resolution shall be in the following form:

“Be it resolved, the Tarrant County Libertarian Party hereby nominates <name> to serve on the Executive Committee of LPTexas as a District Representative representing Texas Senate District <district number>”.

X.d Approving Candidates

1. After 30 and no longer than 45 days following initial notification of candidates for vacancies, the TCLPEC shall meet to consider all candidates.
2. Each nominee shall be considered separately.
3. The TCLPEC shall consider the nominee as a resolution. The resolution shall be in the following form:

“Be it resolved, the Tarrant County Libertarian hereby approves of <name> to serve on the Executive Committee of LPTexas as a District Representative representing Texas Senate District <district number>”.

4. The TCLPEC may abstain from consideration of any nominee.
5. The TCLPEC shall only approve a number of nominees equal to the number of District Representative seats currently vacant in the respective Senate District.

X.e Submission of approved nominees

The Secretary of the TCLP, or the TCLP officer currently acting as Secretary, shall submit any approved resolutions to the Secretary of LPTexas.

Revision adopted at the special meeting of the TCLP on 05/21/2021

Amended at the special meeting of the TCLP on 05/21/2021