



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION

HYATT REGENCY, NEW ORLEANS, LA

JULY 1-3, 2018

CURRENT STATUS:  
VERSION LAST UPDATED:

DRAFT VERSION 1  
AUG 31, 2018

LEGEND for amendment notations:

Text proposed to be inserted, ~~Text proposed to be deleted~~, Unchanged existing text

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular biennial convention of the Libertarian Party was called to order at the Hyatt Regency in New Orleans, Louisiana at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 1, 2018. LNC Chair Nicholas Sarwark served as convention chair (except where specifically noted), and LNC Secretary Alicia Mattson served as convention secretary for the duration.

### PRESENTATION OF FLAG

A team of veterans ceremonially presented to Mr. Sarwark a folded United States flag to highlight the issue of high veteran suicide rates.

### CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Hogarth, as Chair of the Credentials Committee, presented the initial credentials report.

The list of individuals certified by the Credentials Committee as being eligible to register at the convention contained 1276 names (including delegates and alternates) from 51 affiliates.

Ms. Hogarth reported current registration as being 676 delegates and 21 alternates who are entitled to cast 692 votes. Quorum is 277.

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Ms. Hogarth moved that the registered delegate list presented by the Credentials Committee be approved. There was no objection.

Richard Burke (OR) requested to read a letter regarding the unified Oregon delegation. There was no objection. The letter read as follows:

Dear LNC Credentials Committee, et al.,

As some of you are aware, the credentialing of an Oregon delegation to the LNC national convention has been a contentious matter since 2012. This biennial controversy reflects a rift within the Libertarian Party of Oregon existing since March of 2011. Since our dispute arose, two groups have each claimed to be the Libertarian Party of Oregon. One group has been recognized by the Oregon Secretary of State since 2011, and each group has been recognized by various bodies within the LNC at different times.

We are pleased to report to your committee, the LNC, and delegates assembled at convention that the leadership of both Oregon factions - represented by the signatures of Kyle Markley and Ian Epstein, below - have come together in the spirit of cooperation, setting aside our differences in the interest of representing Oregon Libertarians in this year's convention. The Oregon delegation contains several people from both sides of our dispute, and both sides have agreed to Drew Layda serving as the Oregon delegation chair.

This cooperation marks an important first milestone on our road to reconciliation. Both sides have begun to work together, and although challenges remain, we are confident that the conclusion of this process will open a new productive chapter for the Libertarian Party of Oregon as we advance the libertarian movement together.

Yours in Liberty,

Drew Layda  
Kyle Markley  
Ian Epstein

## ***ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA***

A proposed agenda had been printed for the delegates, and the convention took up a motion to adopt the agenda as proposed.

Arvin Vohra (PA) moved to add a new agenda item prior to the Treasurer's Report for a 10-minute discussion of debate exclusion. A voice vote on the motion was inconclusive. The motion was ruled failed on a rising vote.

Dan Reale (CT) moved to suspend the rules to consider four resolutions which had been submitted in writing. The suspension failed on a voice vote.

The main motion to adopt the agenda as proposed was adopted by a voice vote.

## ***AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT***

Due to temporary technical difficulties with attempts to project the treasurer's presentation, without objection, the convention first took up the agenda item for the Audit Committee Report.

Julie Fox, as Chair of the Audit Committee, presented the Audit Committee's report, noting recommendations from the outside audit firm and the Audit Committee's positions on those recommendations. Delegate binders included printed copies of audited financial statements for fiscal years ending December 31, 2016 and December 31, 2017.

## ***TREASURER'S REPORT***

Tim Hagan presented the Treasurer's Report, referencing the audited financial statements printed in the delegate materials. He fielded questions regarding the report.

## ***WELCOME SPEAKER***

Tim Moen, Leader of the Libertarian Party of Canada, gave a welcome presentation. It was followed by a video tribute to Dr. Marc Allan Feldman, whose speech during the 2016 Libertarian Party presidential candidates' debate had inspired this convention's theme of "I'm THAT Libertarian!"

## AWARDS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

On behalf of the Awards Committee, Tim Hagan introduced his fellow committee members: Daniel Hayes, Jim Lark, **Laube** and Jennifer 'Hap' Werther. Mr. Hagan explained the Hall of Liberty Award as a successor to the Thomas Jefferson Award as it was previously defined. With the restructuring of the awards, the LNC had voted to confer the new Hall of Liberty Award on the previous recipients of the Thomas Jefferson Award, those being: David Bergland, the late John Perry, the late Ron Crickenberger, Ruth Bennett, and Jim Lark. A video was played to honor those individuals.

There was no family representative available to accept John Perry's award. Steve Dasbach accepted the awards for Ron Crickenberger and David Bergland. Ruth Bennett and Jim Lark accepted their awards.

## BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE REPORT

At 10:44 a.m., Joe Bishop-Henchman, on behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, began presentation of the committee's report.

### SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to suspend the rules and permit two minutes speaking time for each minority report contained in the reports of both the Bylaws and Rules Committee and the Platform Committee. Following debate, the motion was adopted by a voice vote.

### ALLOW DEBATE ON PROPOSALS TO DELETE PLATFORM PLANKS

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the convention rules as follows:

#### **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM**

1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:

[...]

g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. ~~Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.~~ The Convention Chair shall then open the deletion proposal for debate without amendment for a period of up to ten minutes before bringing the matter to a vote.

Following debate, a vote by a show of hands was inconclusive. A subsequent rising vote was also inconclusive. A standing count was conducted, yielding 283 in favor and 181 opposed, so the motion failed to achieve the required 2/3 vote.

Curry Taylor (TX) moved a substitute motion to instead delete Convention Rule 5, Section 1 in its entirety, as follows:

#### **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM**

~~1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:~~

- ~~a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.~~
- ~~b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.~~
- ~~c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.~~
- ~~d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.~~
- ~~e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.~~
- ~~f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.~~
- ~~g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.~~

Tom Howe (NC) raised a point of order that he didn't believe it to be in order to propose other motions during a committee report. Mr. Sarwark ruled the Curry motion to be in order.

Following debate, the Curry motion to substitute failed by a rising vote.

Jim Fulner (MI) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up committee proposal W (titled "Reduce Email Vote Time"). The motion was superseded by a point of order.

John Wilford (TX) raised a point of order that the Curry motion to substitute had failed, but the main motion from the committee (the motion for which the substitute was proposed) remains pending, and delegates need to vote to dispose of it. Mr. Sarwark ruled that voting again on the committee proposal would constitute a reconsideration without a delegate having moved for reconsideration and without the assembly having agreed to a reconsideration. Mr. Wilford appealed the ruling of the chair. Following debate, the motion to sustain the chair's ruling was adopted by a voice vote.

The assembly returned to the Fulner motion to suspend the rules and immediately take up committee proposal W (titled "Reduce Email Vote Time"). A voice vote was inconclusive. The motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## REDUCE EMAIL VOTE TIME

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

### ARTICLE 13: ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOTS

Boards and committees may transact business by electronic mail. The chair or secretary shall send out electronic mail ballots on any question submitted by the chair or cosponsored by at least 1/5 of the members of the board or committee. The period for voting on a question shall remain open for ~~ten~~ seven days, unless all members have cast votes, or have stated an intention to abstain or be absent during the voting period, by electronic mail to the entire board or committee. Votes from alternates will be counted, in accordance with previously defined ranked order, in the absence of the corresponding committee member(s). The outcome of each motion shall be announced promptly and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The number of votes required for passage of any motion shall be the same as that required during a meeting. Motions dispensed through electronic mail ballots satisfy the requirement of giving previous notice.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

The convention adjourned for lunch at 12:00 noon. Following lunch, the convention was called back to order at 1:31 p.m.

## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Hogarth reported current registration as 770 delegates and 22 alternates who are entitled to cast 780 votes. Quorum is 312.

Ms. Hogarth reported the following requests from affiliates for additions to their delegate lists:

Jonathan Adams – WA delegate  
Ernest Claybon – AL alternate  
Justin David – WA delegate  
Bruce Earnheart – UT delegate  
Robert Evans – WA delegate  
Alicia Gross – WA delegate  
Shain Learner – WA delegate  
Amber Pulis – WA delegate  
Anya Pulis – WA delegate  
Marcus Pulis – WA delegate  
Murray Sabrin – NJ delegate  
Jeff Sanford – WA delegate  
Bradford White – GA alternate  
Michael Wolf – MT delegate  
Emily Wood – WA delegate  
Michael Wood – WA delegate

John Mohler (OH) moved to approve the 16 additions to delegate lists. The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

## BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

### SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Daniel Hayes (LA) moved to suspend the rules to immediately take up committee proposal Q (titled “Codify Protection of Statement of Principles”). The suspension was adopted by a voice vote.

Tyler Danke (WI) moved to suspend the rules to amend the agenda by adding 1 hour to the time for the Bylaws and Rules Committee Report. The motion failed by a voice vote.

### CODIFY PROTECTION OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

#### ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT

1. These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any Regular Convention.
2. Article 3, Section 1, [or this Section](#), shall not be amended by a vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a Regular Convention.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Chuck Moulton (PA) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up committee proposal V (titled "Roll Call Votes for Committees"). The suspension failed on a voice vote.

## CLARIFY METHOD OF ELECTING JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the convention rules as follows:

### RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS

On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of [Judicial Committee Members](#), Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a voice vote.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Andy Craig (WI) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up bylaws proposal L (titled "Elect LNC and JC Earlier"). The suspension failed on a voice vote.

Mike Seebeck (CO) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up bylaws proposal N (titled "Clarify Platform Amendment Thresholds in Article 3.3"). The suspension failed on a voice vote.

Mr. Sarwark reminded delegates that platform deletion tokens were due at 2:10 p.m., which would be 1 hour prior to the start of the Platform Committee Report. He invited a motion to suspend the rules and instead make all tokens (platform deletion and debate qualification) due at 3:00 p.m. A delegate so moved. The suspension was adopted by a voice vote.

## APPOINT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE MEMBERS EARLIER

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

### ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of ten Party members appointed by the National Committee no later than ~~three~~ [twelve](#) months before a Regular Convention. No more than five of these members shall be members of the National Committee.

[...]

4. The Credentials Committee, composed of ten members, shall be selected as follows.

a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a Regular Convention. b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than ~~one month~~ [three months](#) prior to the Regular Convention.

*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*



Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## CLARIFYING PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL ALTERNATES

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws and the convention rules as follows:

### ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

8. A National Committee Regional Representative or Alternate may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties ~~which that~~ constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives or alternates shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs comprising the region shall prevail.

### RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

4. In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its ~~regional representative to the~~ National Committee representation then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative and alternate, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative and alternate in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.

The motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## SIMPLIFY ARTICLE 4 LANGUAGE ON MEMBERSHIP

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships, and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. ~~"Sustaining member" is any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member.~~
4. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
5. ~~Higher levels of contribution by or on behalf of a Party member qualify as sustaining member status for any provision of these Bylaws.~~
6. ~~Only sustaining members shall be counted for delegate apportionment and National Committee representation. Only sustaining members shall be eligible to hold National Party office or be a candidate for President or Vice President.~~
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior twelve months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25;
  - or
  - b. Are Life members.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## REORGANIZE PURPOSE STATEMENT

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

### ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

The Libertarian Party is organized to ~~implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the defend~~ freedom and expand liberty in America, as articulated in our Statement of Principles, by:

1. functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements;
- ~~2. moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office~~ electing Libertarians to public office to move public policy in a libertarian direction;
3. chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities;
4. nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and;
5. entering into public information activities.

Richard Longstreth (CO) moved to suspend the rules to allow introduction of an amendment before voting on the committee proposal. The suspension failed by a voice vote.

Following debate, the main motion failed by a rising vote. Per Convention Rule 4, the proposal was opened for amendments.

Joe Bishop-Henchman (DC) moved to amend the proposal by striking “in America” from the language proposed for insertion. The amendment was adopted by a rising vote.

Robert Imhoff (CA) moved to further amend so that the main motion would instead read:

### ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by:

1. functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements;
- ~~2. moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office~~ electing Libertarians to public office to move public policy in a libertarian direction;
3. chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities;
4. nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and;
5. entering into public information activities.

A voice vote on the Imhoff amendment was inconclusive. It was ruled adopted by a rising vote. Per Convention Rule 2, a sufficient number of delegates objected to the chair’s ruling and called for a counted vote. The count found 228 in favor and 219 opposed. With the amendment having received a majority, the Imhoff proposal became the main motion.

The main motion, as amended, was adopted by a rising vote.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Andy Craig (WI) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up committee proposal L (titled “Elect LNC and JC Earlier”). A voice vote on the suspension was inconclusive. It was ruled adopted by a rising vote.



## ELECT LNC AND JC EARLIER

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the convention rules as follows:

### RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
- [7. Election of Judicial Committee](#)
- [8. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee](#)
- ~~7-9. Platform Committee report~~
- ~~8-10. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)~~
- ~~9. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee~~
- ~~10. Election of Judicial Committee~~
- ~~11.11. Resolutions~~
- ~~12.12. Other business~~

*Provisos: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted. If Proposal I is adopted, the phrase "Election of Judicial Committee" shall be followed with "(in appropriate years)"*

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

Caryn Ann Harlos (CO) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up committee proposal I (titled "Make Judicial Committee a Four-Year Term"). The suspension failed on a voice vote.

## MAKE ELECTED LIBERTARIANS AUTOMATIC DELEGATES AT CONVENTION

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

### ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

#### 4. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:

Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:

- a. One delegate for each 0.14 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate; provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District.
- b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state.

Unless disapproved by a majority vote of the affiliate's or Convention's non-ex-officio delegates, in addition to the delegate allocation, any sustaining member who is not a member of any party other than the Libertarian Party and is elected to and serving as Governor of a U.S. state, member of the U.S. Senate, member of the

U.S. House of Representatives, state senator, state legislator, or Mayor is entitled to be a delegate in the corresponding affiliate's delegation upon presenting proof of such status to the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee shall include in its report the number of such delegates added to each delegation.

*Proviso: The amendment shall take effect upon the close of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Following debate, Aaron Starr (CA) moved to postpone indefinitely this proposal. The indefinite postponement was adopted by a voice vote.

## MAKE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE A FOUR-YEAR TERM

On behalf of the Bylaws and Rules Committee, Mr. Bishop-Henchman moved to amend the bylaws and convention rules as follows:

### ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven Party members elected at each Regular [Non-Presidential](#) Convention, and any five members shall constitute a quorum. No member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular [Non-Presidential](#) Convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular [Non-Presidential](#) Convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular [Non-Presidential](#) Convention.

### RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS

The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:  
[...]

10. Election of Judicial Committee ([in appropriate years](#))
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Robert Imhoff (CA) moved to suspend the rules and re-order all committee proposals with multiple minority reports to the end of the presentation order. The motion failed by a voice vote.

## PLATFORM RETENTION VOTE

At 3:35 p.m, the counts of platform tokens were presented. Pursuant to Convention Rule 5.1.g, with an updated count from the credentials database, it required tokens equal to 20% of 799, or 160 tokens, to bring a platform plank to a deletion vote.

The following numbers of tokens were received:

Plank	Title	Token Count
1.5	Abortion	608
3.4	Free Trade and Migration	86
3.1	National Defense	53
3.0	Securing Liberty	46
2.5	Government Employees	44
1.8	Death Penalty	37
2.9	Education	25
3.2	Internal Security and Individual Rights	22
2.8	Labor Markets	18
1.6	Parental Rights	17
2.2	Environment	17
2.10	Health Care	17
4.0	Omissions	14
1.4	Personal Relationships	11
3.6	Representative Government	9
1.0	Personal Liberty	7
2.3	Energy and Resources	7
2.4	Government Finance and Spending	7
1.7	Crime and Justice	5
3.3	International Affairs	5
3.7	Self-Determination	5
2.1	Property and Contract	4
1.2	Expression and Communication	3
2.6	Money and Financial Markets	3
1.1	Self-Ownership	2
1.9	Self-Defense	2
2.7	Marketplace Freedom	2
3.5	Rights and Discrimination	2
1.3	Privacy	1
2.0	Economic Liberty	1
2.11	Retirement and Income Security	1

The convention took up the motion required by Convention Rule 5.1.g to consider deletion of plank 1.5, titled "Abortion". It had received at least 160 tokens.

Gene Bell (OK) raised a point of order about whether a quorum was present. With a quorum requirement of 312, the chair ruled that a quorum was present.

The motion to delete the "Abortion" plank failed by a rising vote.

## PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT

### SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Starchild (CA) moved to suspend the rules and immediately take up platform proposal N (titled "Amend Current Plank 3.4 'Free Trade and Migration'"). The suspension was adopted by a voice vote.

### RESOLVING PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE MINORITY REPORTS

Mr. Sarwark noted that several proposals from the Platform Committee had multiple minority reports. He reviewed Convention Rule 5 and indicated that because rules regarding minority reports use words such as "one", "two", and "either", the implication was that only one minority report was anticipated, therefore he ruled

that multiple minority reports were out of order. Darryl Perry (NH) inquired how the chair would apply his ruling to choose which one of the multiple minority reports would be ruled to be in order. Mr. Sarwark indicated he would choose the minority report with the largest number of signers.

Michael Kielsky (AZ) moved to suspend the rules to allow the consideration of multiple minority reports. A voice vote on the suspension was inconclusive. It was ruled adopted on a rising vote.

The chair indicated that with the suspension just adopted, each of the minority reports would be presented, and then the delegates would need to choose between them. Upon inquiry about how that choice would be made, the chair indicated he intended to conduct a rising vote on each option, and whichever option had a plurality would be chosen to compete against the main motion.

Robert Imhoff (CA) moved to suspend the rules to establish that ranked choice voting would be used to choose between the various minority report alternatives. The motion failed by a voice vote.

Richard Longstreth (CO) moved to suspend the rules such that the committee proposal is presented and voted on first, then if the committee proposal fails, there would be debate between the minority reports to choose the winning minority report, and then the convention would choose between minority and majority report. The motion was ruled adopted by a voice vote. Division was demanded, and the motion was again ruled adopted by a rising vote.

(SECRETARY'S NOTE: Mr. Longstreth initially misspoke his intentions, saying he wanted a choice between minority reports before voting on the committee report. He then re-stated his intention as noted above. This reversal of wording likely led to the confusion below about exactly what process had been approved.)

Pat Dixon (TX) moved to suspend the rules such that we would use approval voting to choose between multiple minority reports. The motion was ruled failed by a rising vote, so Mr. Sarwark indicated that a plurality would choose between minority reports.

Aaron Starr (CA) raised a point of order that our parliamentary authority does not permit choosing an option by plurality vote, but it requires a majority vote. The chair ruled that plurality voting is in order. Mr. Starr appealed the ruling of the chair. Mr. Sarwark referenced Convention Rule 5.4.b which describes how to choose between two reports and provides that the outcome is determined by, "the report receiving the greater number of votes" and he understood that to be a plurality vote. A voice vote sustained the ruling of the chair.

Robert Imhoff (CA) moved to suspend the rules and change the presentation order of platform proposals such that all proposals with multiple minority reports would be taken up at the end of the presentation order. The motion failed by a voice vote.

## AMEND CURRENT PLANK 3.4 "FREE TRADE AND MIGRATION"

On behalf of the Platform Committee, Ms. Harlos moved to amend the platform as follows:

### 3.4 Free Trade and Migration

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. ~~However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.~~

Mr. Sarwark yielded the gavel to Mr. Vohra.

Mr. Vohra recognized Aaron Starr to present the first minority report as follows:

### **3.4 Free Trade and Migration**

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of individual foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.

Mr. Vohra recognized Steve Scheetz to present the second minority report as follows:

### **3.4 Free Trade and Migration**

We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade which infringe upon any individual's inherent right to peacefully trade with willing partners under mutually agreeable conditions. Therefore, we oppose all tariffs and quotas and call for the removal of government interference in trade that is not limited to the protection of the rights to life and property.

### **3.5 Immigration**

~~Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders. However, we support control over the entry into our country of foreign nationals who pose a credible threat to security, health or property.~~

We welcome all peaceful immigrants and refugees, whether political or economic, to our country and condemn any efforts of U.S. officials to create regulatory or physical "walls" which deny them the fundamental right to offer their labor to willing partners and to move about unmolested.

We therefore call for the elimination of all restrictions on peaceful immigration, the abolition of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Border Patrol, and Customs and Border Protection, and strongly support a declaration of full amnesty for all people who have entered the country illegally.


Mr. Vohra indicated debate was now in order to choose between the minority reports.

Richard Longstreth (CO) raised a point of order that his earlier suspension-of-the-rules motion was to first vote on the committee proposal and only consider minority reports if the committee report was not adopted. Mr. Vohra initially ruled the point well taken, then reversed and indicated we would continue with debate between the minority reports.

A delegate questioned whether the second minority report was germane. Mr. Vohra ruled it to be germane.

Mr. Longstreth again raised the point of order that this process was not consistent with the earlier suspension of the rules. The convention consulted the Secretary's recorded wording of the Longstreth suspension motion, and Mr. Vohra reversed his ruling to indicate we would now proceed to a debate on the committee proposal without first considering minority reports.

A delegate raised a point of order that the Longstreth suspension-of-the-rules motion did not provide for a period of debate on the committee report prior to the first vote, thus we should proceed directly to a vote on the committee report. Nicholas Sarwark (AZ) raised a point of order that since there is only one minority report (under the belief that the second minority report had been ruled to be not germane), we should be following the

standard provisions of Convention Rule 5.4. Mr. Vohra noted the second minority report had been ruled to be germane, thus there is more than one minority report,  the point of order was not well taken.

Mr. Vohra reviewed the Longstreth motion and ruled that it does not permit a debate period on the committee report prior to the first vote.

Nicholas Sarwark (AZ) raised a point of order that we have to choose between the minority reports before proceeding to a vote. After reviewing the Longstreth motion again, Mr. Vohra ruled that we would proceed without debate to a vote on the committee report.

A delegate appealed the ruling of the chair regarding whether debate is permitted on the committee report prior to the vote. Following debate on the appeal, Mr. Vohra reversed his ruling and opened 5 minutes of debate on the committee proposal.

Following debate, the committee proposal was ruled adopted by a rising vote.

Mr. Sarwark resumed the gavel.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

John Phillips (IL) moved to change the presentation order of platform proposals such that all proposals with multiple minority reports would be taken up at the end of the presentation order. Mr. Sarwark ruled the motion to be out of order since an identical motion had failed earlier.

## AMEND CURRENT PLANK 1.6 “PARENTAL RIGHTS”

On behalf of the Platform Committee, Ms. Harlos moved to amend the platform as follows:

### 1.6 Parental Rights

Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected. ~~This statement shall not be construed to condone child abuse or neglect.~~

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

## SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Heide Alejandro-Smith (TX) moved to suspend the rules to immediately consider proposal G (titled “Add New Plank ‘Sex Work’ to Section 2 before Current Plank 2.8”). A voice vote on the suspension was inconclusive. It was ruled failed by a rising vote.

## ADD NEW PLANK “LICENSING” TO SECTION 2 AFTER CURRENT PLANK 2.7

On behalf of the Platform Committee, Ms. Harlos moved to amend the platform as follows:

### 2.X Licensing

Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that



[infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.](#)

The motion was adopted by a voice vote.

## AMEND AND SPLIT CURRENT PLANK 2.4 "GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND SPENDING"

On behalf of the Platform Committee, Ms. Harlos moved to amend the platform as follows:

### **2.4 Government Finance and Spending**

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. [We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.](#)

### **2.5 Government Debt**

Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

Mr. Sarwark recognized Aaron Starr to present the first minority report, as follows:

### **2.4 Government Finance and Spending**

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. [We support legislation that reduces overall tax burdens. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.](#)

### **2.5 Government Debt**

Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

Mr. Sarwark recognized Darryl Perry to present the second minority report, as follows:

### **2.4 Government Finance and Spending**

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor. We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. [We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any taxes for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner.](#)

## **2.5 Government Debt**

~~Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes. No person can rightly enter into a contract on behalf of another person without their consent. When governments accrue debt, they are in essence entering into debt on behalf of their constituents and the children of their constituents. We oppose governments entering into debt obligations on behalf of its constituents and their children for decades to come.~~

Mr. Sarwark recognized Steve Scheetz to present the third minority report, as follows:

## **2.4 Government Finance and Spending**

All persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor and no one should be forced to sacrifice themselves, their resources, or their property for the benefit of others. Since taxation is the appropriation of the resources of others without their individual consent (i.e., theft), we ~~We call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment~~ abolition of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution, and eventual repeal of all coercive financing of government operations and programs. We oppose any legal requirements forcing employers and businesses to serve as tax collectors. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner and encourage mutual-aid charitable solutions to assist those in need.

## **2.5 Government Debt**

~~Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.~~

Per the Longstreth suspension, debate was opened for the committee proposal. Following debate, the committee proposal was ruled adopted by a rising vote.

## **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**

Aaron Starr (CA) moved to suspend the rules for a bylaw amendment which would prevent committee members who had voted for a committee proposal from then also signing onto a minority report. The suspension failed by a voice vote.

## **AMEND CURRENT PLANK 3.2 "INTERNAL SECURITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS"**

On behalf of the Platform Committee, Ms. Harlos moved to amend the platform as follows:

### **3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights**

The defense of the country requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.

Following debate, the motion was adopted by a rising vote.

### **CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR DEBATE QUALIFICATION TOKENS**

The Convention Oversight Committee had established that the top-5 chair or vice-chair candidates who by 3:00 p.m. had received a number of debate qualification tokens equal to 5% of the credentialed delegates as of the Sunday afternoon credentials update would be eligible to participate in the debates on Sunday evening. Based on the Credentials Committee report of 770 registered delegates, candidates needed to receive 39 tokens to qualify for debate participation.

The token submission having ended at 3:00 p.m., at 5:03 p.m., the token results for LNC Chair were announced as follows:

<b>Chair Candidate</b>	<b>Token Count</b>
Nicholas Sarwark	252
Joshua Smith	188
Christopher Thrasher	87
Matt Kuehnel	50
Matt Schutter	8
Ben Leder	4
Larry Sharpe	3
Tom Mahon	3
Steve Scheetz	2
Matt Murphy	1
Valerie Sarwark	1
Jesse Fullington	1
Craig Bowden	1

The candidates receiving at least 39 tokens to qualify for the debate were: Nicholas Sarwark, Joshua Smith, Christopher Thrasher, and Matt Kuehnel.

The token results for LNC Vice-Chair were announced as follows:

<b>Vice-Chair Candidate</b>	<b>Token Count</b>
Alex Merced	203
Sam Goldstein	99
Joe Hauptmann	78
Arvin Vohra	69
Steve Scheetz	61
James Weeks	51
Donald Henry	2
None of the Above (NOTA)	2
Geoff Neale	1
Jim Lark	1

The top-5 candidates receiving at least 39 tokens to qualify for the debate were: Alex Merced, Sam Goldstein, Joe Hauptmann, Arvin Vohra, and Steve Scheetz.

Arvin Vohra (PA) moved to suspend the rules and amend the vice-chair debate rules to allow the top-6 candidates to participate. The motion failed by a rising vote.

Following announcements, the convention adjourned at 5:11 p.m.