



Bylaws of the Collin County Libertarian Party

Article 1. General

1.1 Name

The name of this organization shall be the Collin County Libertarian Party of County, also known as “CCLP”, and hereinafter referred to as “CCLP”. As a Texas county party, this organization is an affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Texas, hereinafter referred to as “LPTexas”.

1.2 Duration

This organization and bylaws shall persist as long as the County Leadership Team, hereinafter referred to as the “CLT”, has at least one member and remains valid in accordance with LPTexas bylaws and operational policies in addition to Texas state law.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of the CCLP is to implement and give voice to the principles and message of the Libertarian Party by:

- a. Informing the public about Libertarian policies and principles;
- b. Nominating and supporting the best candidates for public office to represent the Libertarian Party;
- c. Attracting and developing leaders, volunteers, donors, and members to maintain and grow the CCLP and Libertarian Party;
- d. Working to influence local and state government towards Libertarian Party principles;
- e. Cooperating in activities with LPTexas and the national Libertarian Party;

1.4 Definitions

The following terms are used through these bylaws and other CCLP governing documents.

“Business Meeting” means an officially called meeting of the CCLP at which issues can be placed before the Voting Affiliate body and voted upon.

“County Convention” means the convention in a county described by Texas Election Code §181.061(c).

“Precinct Convention” means a convention of a voting precinct in the county as described by Texas Election Code §181.061(c).

“State Libertarian Executive Committee”, hereinafter referred to as “SLEC”, means the executive board of LPTexas.

“Voting Affiliate” means a person who is qualified and has rights as defined in these bylaws to officially participate in business of the CCLP.

1.5 Parliamentary Authority

These bylaws constitute the official rules of the CCLP, and all other matters are governed by the rules of the LPTexas. For any rules not specifically covered in these bylaws or the rules of LPTexas, the rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the meetings of the CCLP and the CLT.

Article 2. Membership

2.1 Voting Affiliate

Any person who meets the qualifications to become a Voting Affiliate shall be recorded as a Voting Affiliate and granted Voting Affiliate rights immediately.

2.1.1 Voting Affiliate Qualifications

A person is eligible to become a Voting Affiliate if they:

- a. Are a Voting Member as defined by LPTexas bylaws;
- b. Are currently registered to vote in Collin County;
- c. Are not currently affiliated with any other political party.

2.1.2 Rights of Voting Affiliate Membership

Voting Affiliates shall have equal rights and privileges to participate and vote at Business Meetings of the CCLP.

2.1.3 Duration of Voting Affiliate Membership

Voting Affiliate membership begins once a qualified person meets all criteria of 2.1.1 Voting Affiliate Qualifications, and it continues until the date of the following Precinct Convention.

2.1.4 Termination of Voting Affiliate Membership

A person ceases to be a Voting Affiliate if:

- a. They cease to meet the criteria of 2.1.1 Voting Affiliate Qualifications;
- b. They do not affiliate at the next Precinct Convention;
- c. They resign or are removed for cause; or
- d. The CCLP organization ceases to exist as described in 1.2 Duration.

2.1.5 Resignation of Voting Affiliates

A Voting Affiliate may terminate their own membership by giving written notification to any CLT officer. Such resignations shall be filed and kept on record with the Secretary until the following Precinct Convention.

2.1.6 Removal for Cause of Voting Affiliates

Any Voting Affiliate may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the entire membership of the CLT, or by a 3/4 vote of the entire Voting Affiliate membership of the CCLP. A formal statement of cause shall be drafted, and a reasonable attempt shall be made to deliver this cause to the subject Voting Affiliate. The subject Voting Affiliate shall be given a reasonable opportunity for speaking privileges to those voting on the issue before a vote can take place. An exception for speaking privileges and delivery of the statement may be made if there is reasonable cause for security concerns, and such reasons shall be included in the formal statement of cause.

If a removal for cause occurs, the formal statement of cause shall be presented before any other business can take place at the following Business Meeting and also at the following County Convention.

Article 3. CCLP Organization

3.1 County Leadership Team

The CLT shall consist of all the elected officers as established by these bylaws, and must include the position of Chair.

3.1.1 CLT Authority

The CLT shall have authority to represent and govern the CCLP in any way not covered by these bylaws.

3.2 Officers and Duties

The officers of the CCLP shall be:

- a. **Chair**, who shall be the principal and presiding officer to:
 1. Ensure Precinct and County Conventions are conducted as prescribed by Texas Election Code and LPTexas bylaws;
 2. Perform duties necessary to maintain the legal status of the CCLP as a political party;
 3. Receive, process, and report Applications of Nomination from local candidates;
 4. Preside over CCLP Business Meetings;
 5. Perform the duties of any other officer positions if those positions are vacant; and
 6. Perform any other duties as assigned by LPTexas and these bylaws.
- b. **Vice Chair**, who shall assist the Chair and:
 1. Perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is absent.
 2. If the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice-Chair may assume the position of Chair until the end of the previous Chair's term or until a new Chair is elected in special convention. The Vice-Chair may also be called upon, at the request of the Chair, to fulfill the duties of the Treasurer or Secretary in the absence of either officer or in the event that one of those offices becomes vacant.
- c. **Secretary**, who shall maintain records and:
 1. Take minutes at all official CCLP Business Meetings;
 2. Store meeting minutes and distribute copies to other officers in a timely manner;
 3. Maintain a list of Voting Affiliate memberships; and
 4. Maintain a contact list, which may include but is not limited to persons who have been involved with, volunteered for, donated to, contacted, or engaged with the CCLP.
 5. Circulate meeting announcements at least seven days in advance of all meetings as determined by the CLT
- d. **Treasurer**, who shall maintain the treasury and:
 1. Collect donations, and maintain a list of donors and donation records;
 2. Track spending authorizations and disbursements;
 3. Provide a report of the CCLP finances at each Business Meeting and when requested by the CLT; and
 4. Disburse funds as authorized by instruction from the CLT or the Voting Affiliate body at a Business Meeting as prescribed by these bylaws.

3.2.1 Officer Eligibility

Only Voting Affiliates who have (a) met the qualifications for Voting Member (per LP Texas ByLaws) for a minimum of 12 prior consecutive months, and (b) attended at least 25 percent of the Monthly CCLP Business meetings in the prior 12 months, shall be eligible to hold officer positions in the CLT. An officer position is vacated immediately if the holder of that position ceases to be a Voting Affiliate.

3.2.2 Officer Terms

Officers are elected for a term beginning at the adjournment of the County Convention where they were elected, or immediately at a Business Meeting once they are elected, with the term ending at the adjournment of the next County Convention.

3.2.3 Officer Resignations

Any officer may resign by giving written notification to the Chair. In the case of the Chair, written notification must be given to the LPTexas State Chair or the CLT.

3.2.4 Officer Removal for Cause

Any officer may be removed from their position on the CLT by a 2/3 vote of the entire Voting Affiliate membership or unanimous vote of the remaining CLT members. A formal statement of cause shall be included in the motion to remove the subject officer. At any business meeting of the CLT, any CCLP member may make a motion to take a vote of "no confidence" in an CLT member. Such a motion shall supersede all other motions in priority other than points of order, points of inquiry, and adjournment. Until the removal passes, the subject officer shall retain all rights and privileges of their office and their rights as a Voting Affiliate. The subject officer shall be given a reasonable opportunity for speaking privileges to those voting on the issue before a vote can be taken.

If an officer is removed cause, the formal statement of cause shall be presented before any other business can take place at the following Business Meeting and also at the following County Convention.

3.2.5 Officer Vacancies

Officer vacancies, including the Chair, may be filled by a majority vote of the Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting.

3.3 Directors and Duties

The directors of the CCLP shall be:

a. District Directors

Up to two (2) Directors may be elected at a regular County Convention to represent each of the four (4) County Commissioner Districts of Collin County by a majority vote of delegates residing within the respective districts. Directors may be appointed to fill vacant seats by a majority vote of the CLT. A Director shall take office upon appointment. All Directors must be CCLP voting affiliates and reside within the district they represent.

b. At-Large Directors

Up to three (3) additional at-large Directors may be elected by a majority vote at a regular County Convention to serve as full members of the CLT. An at-large Director shall take office upon election and shall serve as a full member of the CLT until the next regular Convention or until removal. All Directors must be CCLP voting affiliates.

3.4 Spending Authority

Funds shall be disbursed by the Treasurer according to motions of a majority of Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting.

A majority of Voting Affiliates at a Business Meeting may designate an amount that the Chair is authorized to spend unilaterally for the current calendar year.

3.4.1 CLT Spending Authority

The CLT may authorize the use of CCLP funds by a 2/3 vote of the CLT. Such spending authorizations shall only be valid after all members of the CLT have been notified and have had the opportunity to vote. The vote by the CLT shall be considered failed if it has not gained the required votes 48 hours after the call for a vote.

3.5 Prohibitions

No motion or action by the CLT or CCLP shall:

- a. Obligate the CCLP to take on debt with the exception of a credit card with a credit line as approved by the voting members;
- b. Violate the LPTexas Statement of Principles or bylaws in any fundamental way.

3.6 Operational Policy

The CCLP may create and maintain an operations document in which to establish perpetual traditions, policies, organizational structure, volunteer roles, or other mechanisms which need to remain from one County Convention through to the next.

The operations document shall require a majority vote of the Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting to adopt or amend. That document, in its entirety, shall be made available to any Voting Affiliate upon request to an officer.

Article 4. Meetings

4.1 Business Meetings

Business Meetings are the only class of meeting at which business of the CCLP is conducted, except as authorized elsewhere in these bylaws. Business Meetings must meet the following requirements:

- a. **Quorum:** 30% of the entire Voting Affiliate membership, that includes at least 1 CLT member, or two-thirds of the CLT members; shall constitute a quorum.
- b. **Calling a meeting:** Business Meetings may be called by the Chair, majority of the CLT, or by petition of 1/3 of the entire Voting Affiliate membership.
- c. **Agenda:** A tentative agenda must be provided along with the meeting notice. At the meeting, if any motion is made outside the scope of the tentative agenda, a 1/3 vote of the Voting Affiliates in attendance is sufficient to pass an objection to consideration of that motion.
- d. **Notice:** At least ten days notice shall be given to call a Business Meeting. Valid notice may be given by electronic newsletter, social property, postal mail, direct email, telephone, and/or direct communication. Any notices must make reasonable efforts to ensure all Voting Affiliates have been notified. Additionally, public notice of meetings shall be posted on all active online presences of the CCLP, such as a home website and social media accounts, but these methods shall not constitute valid notice to Voting Affiliates.
- e. **Frequency:** Business Meetings shall be held at least twice per year, but may be called more frequently as deemed necessary.
- f. **Open to the public:** All Business Meetings, except for those declared a closed session, shall be open to attendance by the public and press. A closed session, at which only Voting Affiliates may attend, may be declared by a 2/3 vote of the Voting Affiliates in attendance at that meeting.

4.1.1 Minutes

Minutes shall be taken at all Business Meetings. Any Voting Affiliate may request and shall receive a copy of recorded minutes within 10 days of the request made to any CLT officer.

4.1.2 Remote Participation

The CLT, by majority vote, may allow a fully or partially online Business Meeting so that participants are able to attend remotely. Notices of how to attend such meetings shall be given along with the tentative agenda.

4.2 Other Meeting Classes

Other classes of meetings may be held by the CCLP, but such meetings shall not function as a Business Meeting.

Article 5. Voting

5.1 Voting Rights

Provided they maintain active Voting Affiliate membership, each Voting Affiliate shall have one vote for all purposes requiring a vote as long as they are recognized as in attendance at a session.

5.2 Voting Method for Elections

Approval Voting may be used in all elections, except where restricted by LPTexas bylaws, or when a different voting system is decided upon by majority vote of the Voting Affiliates in attendance.

5.3 Right to Vote Against

The right to vote against each individual nominee or for "None Of The Above" nominees ("NOTA") shall be an available choice in all elections, except where restricted by LPTexas bylaws. Voting Affiliates shall have the right to not elect a nominee to public or party office, leaving the position vacant instead.

Article 6. Conventions

6.1 Order of Business

At all County Conventions, the order of business shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order by the County Chair, or by another CLT officer if the Chair is absent.
- b. Establish the roster of participants to establish quorum as described in LPTexas bylaws for a Party Convention Quorum.
- c. Temporary officers of the convention are introduced, and the Temporary Convention Chair continues the convention.
- d. Nomination and election of permanent officers of the convention, after which the permanent Convention Chair continues the convention.
- e. Nominations and elections of candidates for public office for races that are entirely within the county for those who have filed an Application for Nomination form as described by Texas Election Code, Title 10, Subtitle C, Chapter 181, Subchapter B.
- f. Nominations and elections of CLT officers.
- g. If any applicable District Conventions will take place, the Convention Chair announces the time and location of such District Conventions, followed by nominations and elections for delegates to those District Conventions in accordance with LPTexas bylaws for District Conventions.
- h. Nominations and elections for delegates and alternates to the State Convention in accordance with LPTexas bylaws for County Conventions.
- i. Modifications to the CCLP bylaws in accordance with 9.1 Permanent Amendments.
- j. Other business, if any.
- k. Adjournment.

6.2 Governing Authority

All County Conventions shall adhere to LPTexas bylaws for General Rules Governing Party Conventions.

6.3 Functionaries of the County Convention

The County Chair may designate temporary officers and their duties as deemed necessary to plan, arrange, and conduct the necessary work of the County Convention until it elects its own permanent officers.

The permanent officers of the convention shall be elected and include a Chair, Secretary, and any additional officers of the convention who may be elected. The Convention Chair fulfills the duties of any of these officer positions if they are vacant.

A Parliamentarian may be chosen to give advice to the Convention Chair, but shall have no authority over the convention.

6.4 Collin County Libertarian Party Convention Rules

Discussion shall be limited in accordance with LPTexas bylaw for Limits on Discussion.

6.4.1 Appointment of Officers as Delegates

Current CLT members and At-large directors elected before the beginning of the regular county convention shall be granted the right of first refusal to be delegates to the State Convention. Those accepting appointment as delegate shall be seated in order as follows: (1) Chair, (2) Vice-chair, (3) Treasurer, (4) Secretary, (5, 6, 7) At-large directors, alphabetically by last name. If any of the CLT members refuse appointment, the remaining CLT members shall move up a spot.

If the Collin County Libertarian Party has fewer than seven (7) delegates, seating shall be in the order prescribed above and the remaining shall be designated as alternates. If the Collin County Libertarian Party has more than seven (7) delegates, then those CLT members who agree to become delegates shall be seated in the order prescribed above. The remaining delegates shall be elected at the county convention.

6.4.2 Election of Delegates to the State Convention at the County Convention

After the executive committee members are appointed and agree to serve (See section 6.4.1), the remaining delegates will be elected as follows:

- a. The number of delegates elected will be the difference between the number of delegates assigned to the Collin County Libertarian Party by the LPTexas less the number of appointed CLT who accept appointment as delegates as prescribed by Section 6.4.1. (Example: If the Collin County Libertarian Party is granted 11 delegates and all seven (7) CLT members accept, then the number of elected delegates shall be four, $11 - 7$).
- b. Nominations for the remaining delegate positions shall be made from the floor and need to be seconded. Only Voting Affiliates who have (1) met the qualifications for Voting Member (per LP Texas ByLaws) for a minimum of 12 prior consecutive months, and (2) attended at least 25 percent of the Monthly CCLP Business meetings in the prior 12 months, shall be eligible to be nominated as a Delegate to the LP Texas State Convention.
- c. All valid nominees will be listed, and ballots cast using approval voting.
- d. In order to be elected as a delegate, a nominee must obtain a majority of the "Yea" votes of the ballots cast.
- e. Delegates will then be seated in order based on the number of "Yea" votes received.
- f. In the event of a tie for the final remaining position(s), the Chair of the Convention shall determine a fair and equitable method for selecting the remaining delegates. The Chair's proposed method is subject to the approval of the majority of the county convention delegates.

6.4.3 Election of Alternates to the State Convention

Once the delegates are elected, a separate election will be held for alternates using the following process:

- a. Nominations for the alternate delegate positions shall be made from the floor and need to be seconded. Only Voting Affiliates who have (1) met the qualifications for Voting Member (per LP Texas ByLaws) for a minimum of 6 prior consecutive months, and (2) attended at least 1 Monthly CCLP Business meeting in the prior 12 months, shall be eligible to be nominated as an Alternate to the LP Texas State Convention.
- b. All valid nominees will be listed, and ballots cast using approval voting.
- c. In order to be elected as an alternate delegate, a nominee must obtain a majority of the "Yea" votes of the ballots cast.

- d. Alternates will then be seated in order based on the number of “Yea” votes received.
- e. In the event of a tie for the remaining position(s), the Chair of the Convention shall determine a fair and equitable method for selecting the remaining delegates. The Chair’s proposed method is subject to the approval of the majority of the county convention delegates.

Article 7. LPTexas

7.1 SLEC Vacancies

Should a vacancy exist in a SLEC Senate District Representative seat that is wholly or partially contained within the CCLP’s county, then the CLT or Voting Affiliates may act to fill the vacancy according to the following process. LPTexas bylaws and policies for recording and submitting any nominations and votes shall be followed.

7.1.1 Nomination

A Voting Affiliate may be nominated for a vacant District Representative seat by a majority vote of Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting or a 2/3 vote of the CLT.

7.1.2 Vote

Upon LPTexas providing the list of nominated candidates, a majority vote of Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting or a 2/3 vote of the CLT shall determine the vote cast for or against each nominee on behalf of the CCLP. A vote, for or against, may be cast for each nominated candidate.

Article 8. Authority

8.1 Superiority

These bylaws supersede and nullify all previous rules, constitutions, or bylaws of the CCLP.

8.2 Conflict

In the event these bylaws come into conflict with Texas Election Code or LPTexas bylaws, the relevant sections of Texas Election Code or LPTexas bylaws shall be recognized as superior.

8.3 Duration of Motions

All motions and votes passed between County Conventions are nullified at the adjournment of each County Convention unless preserved in an operations document as specified in 3.5 Operational Policy.

Article 9. Amendments

9.1 Permanent Amendments

These bylaws may be permanently amended, altered, or repealed only by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at a County Convention.

9.2 Temporary Amendments

Any Voting Affiliate may submit temporary amendment proposals to any officer. The CLT shall provide the full text of proposed temporary amendments along with the next Business Meeting’s temporary agenda.

Temporary amendments will take effect upon ratification by 2/3 vote of Voting Affiliates in attendance at a Business Meeting. Temporary amendments will only remain in effect until the adjournment of the next County Convention. They shall be presented as bylaws proposals at that County Convention and approved according to 9.1 Permanent Amendments.

The County Convention body has the right to reject a temporary amendment by majority vote at any time and without needing a motion to suspend the rules.

9.3 Minor Corrections

The CLT may, by unanimous vote, update numbering, modify spacing, fix grammatical or spelling errors, and modify formatting of these bylaws, but shall not change wording, substance, or intent in any way. Notification of these changes must be announced as part of and made available at the Business Meeting following such modification.

Article 10. Bylaws History

10.1 Certification

These bylaws were modified at the Collin County Convention on March 16, 2024.

Presiding Chair Name: Ed Kless